September 2021 Volume 25 No. 2





In 2020, Catholic Charities of Long Island provided more than 1.3 million, face-to-face services to 40,069 neighbors. Here's what you made possible:

### They Will Know Us By Our Love

Addiction Treatment
Services* <b>1,870</b> served
Food and Nutrition7,669 served
Housing*
Immigrant Services/
Refugee Resettlement 16,065 served
Mental Health
Outpatient Services2,573 served
Mental Health
Residential Services*332 served
Parish Social Ministry**3,403 served
Regina Maternity Services*75 served
Residential Services for
People With Developmental
Disabilities*107 served
Senior Services4,216 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 3,399 people. Catholic Charities of Long Island coordinated COVID vaccinations for our most vulnerable clients.



They caught a few big ones! Residents from our homes for the developmentally disabled enjoyed an early summer fishing trip with the Knights of Columbus.



Thanks to our friends at Love On a Leash Therapy Dogs, Long Island Chapter for brightening the

days of our seniors and developmentally disabled residents.





Get the popcorn! It's movie night at our senior housing sites.



Namaste...Meet the "chair yoga" class at our Catholic Charities Oceanside Senior Community Center.



The Molloy College Community Care Mobile Clinic hosted the "Summer Fit WIC 2021" event for our Women, Infants and Children program.



Every year our Meals



'Louie the Rabbit" pays a visit to our beloved seniors at Mary's Manor.





The Pink Ladies and T-Birds at our Bishop Ryan Residence had a blast at their 1950's Sock Hop! Scan the Q-code with your smart phone and watch them cut the rug!



From Our Mailbag

Dear Catholic Charities, Another month has come and gone, but once again I am thanking you for providing meals for me. You are truly a life-saver. The past year and a half has been extremely difficult for me and any assistance is so greatly appreciated. I only wish I was financially able to afford to pay in full for my meals but living on an SS check is quite challenging to say the least. Never did I think I would be in a situation of need. But as they say..."never say never." And yes, again, thank you to Rob who delivers my meals. He is such a nice young man! Thank you, CM—Nassau County Meals on Wheels Recipient

# The Thanks Belong to You!

Dear Catholic Charities,

This gift to your organization is sent in our appreciation of the kindness and compassion shown to my sister Helen for a number of years. She died in her home in peace in November last year. I believe her ability to remain in her home during her final years was due in measurable extent to your Meals on Wheels program. Thank you! Anonymous

### Fidelity

My Dear Friend,

idelity is an old-fashioned word. People rarely use it anymore. But as my husband and I just celebrated our 41st wedding anniversary, I got to thinking about what makes a good marriage tick.

Obviously, love tops the list and humor, patience, and forgiveness are important too. But fidelity often gets overlooked—the selfless loyalty needed to honor commitments day after day, year after year.

Fidelity isn't just a commandment against adultery—it's a call to love fully, just as Christ loves. And Pope Francis tells us it's for every vocation, not just marriage. Those who defend our country know it well. The motto of the Marines—"Semper Fi"—proudly proclaims this love and loyalty to our country. But fidelity is needed ANYWHERE and EVERYWHERE there is love,

because loving is hard work and it is fidelity that keeps us doing it.

Whether it's God, country, children, parents, or neighbors, God gives us the ability to love all of them with our whole heart. You just have to keep CHOOSING to love each and every day.

Unfortunately, our world pursues change so relentlessly that we've diminished this virtue. Don't like your partner? Get a guickie divorce. Don't like history? Rewrite it. Unhappy with your biological sex? Identify as something else. It seems that in our unyielding quest for something better, we may have forgotten how to appreciate what we already have.

But at Catholic Charities, things haven't changed.

I've been part of this Catholic Charities family for nearly 34 years and while very different than my marriage, my whole heart is here, too. Just like every other staff person and volunteer who shares this ministry, we fully embrace the call to love our neighbor, even when it's difficult or inconvenient. In fact, it's when things seems darkest that people across Long Island turn to us—because they know our love is given wholeheartedly. They recognize our fidelity.

So this is my promise to you: Catholic Charities of Long Island will remain faithful to our mission, the mission of Jesus—that we will love and faithfully serve everyone regardless of their faith or background—and that we will continue to do so as long as God bestows us with strength and the grace of your support. In that light,

will you please use the enclosed envelope to make a gift today?

Because Long Island still needs you.

With sincere gratitude,

mul Castel

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

'Do not let love and fidelity forsake you; bind them around your neck; write them on the tablet of your heart."

Proverbs 3:3

"I prefer a church which is bruised, hurting and dirty because it has been out on the streets..." — Pope Francis



## Responding

#### Our heartfelt thanks to these friends.

Our heartfelt thanks to our friends at **Catholic Charities USA** for their recent grant of \$250,000. We rely on our partnership with them to help better the lives of thousands of neighbors right here on Long Island.



We celebrate our fantastic volunteers at **Greenman-Pedersen Engineering Babylon**. From vegetable growing to arts and crafts, their dedication to helping our developmentally disabled lead richer and fuller lives has earned our sincere admiration.

On behalf of the thousands she helped us serve, our thanks and love to 18-year employee, **Loretta Tillar**, as she retires from Catholic Charities.

Make automated, monthly, secure credit card donations with one call to (516) 733-7042. No size gift is too small. Giving couldn't be easier!

### Leave a Legacy

"The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The next best time is NOW."

Call (516) 733-7042 and find out how easy it is to add Catholic Charities to your will or estate and leave a legacy of your own.

### Turn Your Car Into Care

Catholic Charities of LI will accept ANY car, truck, motorcycle or boat as a donation and provide you with a fast and easy pick-up and a tax receipt.

Call (877) 507-GIVE (4483) or visit www.catholiccharities.cc and select "Cars to Care" on the right.

### Looking for A JOB WITH HEART?

Learn more about joining the Catholic Charitles team.

Visit www.catholiccharities.cc/careers

The Mission Development and Communications Department, Catholic Charities of Long Island

(516) 733-7028 *www.catholiccharities.cc*  Chief Executive Officer: Laura A. Cassell

Editor: Jennifer Regan Haight Writer This Issue:

Writer This Issue: Umberto Mignardi Design & Layout: Jeff Thurau



