



The Mission

Care With Dignity ... Life With Hope

October 2009

Volume 13 No. 3

www.catholiccharities.cc

You've Made 30 years of Beautiful Memories Possible

“Once we had a mock marriage ceremony—just for fun. One of the gals lent me a wedding gown. Problem was the fellow who was the so-called groom started acting like it was real. Next thing you know, he’s showing photos around like we were really married!” laughed Julia, a resident of St. Joseph’s Village in Selden, Catholic Charities of Rockville’s Centre’s oldest and largest senior housing community. The laughs continued as she and five friends, Sally, Sue, Phyllis, Margaret and Evelyn (median age 93) pored over photo albums, recounting their thirty years together since the village opened in 1979. “We’d get together at each other’s apartments for bingo, cards or even penny-poker,” noted Sally. “We had such laughs,” added Margaret, “and parties for every holiday. I wouldn’t have changed a thing.”

“That’s music to my ears,” explained Angela Cammarata, social services coordinator at St. Joseph’s for the last 17 years. We have to meet our seniors’ social needs if they’re going to be happy.” That’s just one of the goals of the Catholic Charities Housing Office, started by Bishop John R. McGann and Msgr. Henry J. Reel,

who realized early on that the high cost of living on Long Island threatened to crowd its very own seniors out. They initiated a long-term plan to build and maintain affordable apartments that would allow seniors to remain a part of the Island they had built.

Today, with your support, Catholic Charities operates 1,263 units at 15 sites in Nassau and Suffolk. And through the goodwill of people like you, each of these sites has a full-time coordinator who arranges recreation as well as helps residents access other social services. Two pastoral care coordinators meet with residents regularly to talk and some sites even have weekly on-site medical services.

While these services make for a comfortable environment, the seniors themselves are the community’s best assets. Currently, residents at St. Joseph’s have become “reading buddies” who visit the local grammar school to help children learn to read. Angela sums it up best, “When you support our senior housing, you’re really supporting all the other lives these seniors touch. They make this place special, not the other way around.”



“We had good times here, really beautiful times.”
—Julia



Thanks to you, more than 1,200 seniors call us “home.” Let’s keep building together. Call (516) 733-7028 to make a secure donation.



...those who wait with hope in the Lord will be renewed. They will soar on wings like eagles.

ISAIAH 40:31



Smile, and the world smiles with you.

Everyone remembers the day we met Lyisha at a Catholic Charities picnic several years ago. She stood perfectly still, stared at the ground, and didn't say a word to anyone. It was no wonder. A traumatic home life left her terribly afraid to connect with anyone, although she longed for friends and a family life. When she moved into one of our homes for the developmentally disabled, she wouldn't make eye contact for months. But she received the patience she deserved and found the trust that she sought. Today, Lyisha is one of our most outgoing residents. She bowls weekly in a league, sings in a choir, is an altar server in her parish, takes dance lessons, and plays for a local softball team. A hug and a smile are her calling cards.

Photo by: Gregory A. Shemitz, 3VPhoto.com

Meet our newest friends...

On a recent warm summer day, Molloy College President Drew Bogner, Ph.D., and his wife Karen paid a visit to the families at Regina Residence, Catholic Charities' home for unwed moms and their babies. There they met two of our newest friends, Precious and Jonathan, both less than two weeks old at the time. Your donations make this home possible, so we thought you'd like to meet them too!



At Regina Residence, young mothers find a life-saving solution in our unconditional love and learn how to be responsible, loving, working moms.



Catholic Charities will present Dr. and Mrs. Bogner with the Caritas Award at a dinner in their honor on November 12th. The medal is given to Long Islanders in recognition of enduring and exemplary dedication, support, and service to people in need in our communities.

The hands that do the work of your heart...

In 2008, Catholic Charities of Rockville Centre assisted a total of 55,485 people who received more than 1.4 million caring, dignified, face-to-face, direct services.

Chemical Dependence Services.....	2,782 served
Commodity Supplemental Food Program	17,602 served
Dental Services.....	802 served
HIV/AIDS Services*	99 served
Housing*	2,041 served
Immigrant Services/Refugee Resettlement.....	13,056 served
Mental Health Outpatient Services.....	2,121 served
Mental Health Residential Services*.....	89 served
Nutrition Outreach Education Project.....	5,434 served
Office for Persons With Disabilities	213 served
Parish Social Ministry**.....	6,139 served
Regina Maternity Services*	146 served
Residential Services for People With Developmental Disabilities*	121 served
Senior Services	4,840 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 4,683 people.

From Our Mailbag



From a client with HIV/AIDS

Catholic Charities has not only been a Godsend but a safety net...Now I have my own place to live, food, clothing, medical treatment...and best of all a life with dignity. M.

From our Christmas Help-A-Family Fund

It is especially comforting to know there are so many generous and caring individuals in our community. Your help is an unexpected and welcome blessing. G.

Portraits of Care

My Dear Friends,

Do you know what makes Catholic Charities so special? Love. Every one of us who work here and every one of you who support us is moved by love to care for those who are hurting.

And there are many hurting these days. Look above and you'll see that we served 55,485 people last year. Those aren't empty figures. There were 55,485 unique stories of hardship—55,485 sets of families and friends affected by their loved one's suffering—and there were 55,485 hearts to mend.

But mend, we will. It isn't easy. But if ever there was a group of people marked by Christ-like compassion, it would be Catholic Charities of Rockville Centre. We know that there is no cookie-cutter approach to healing a broken spirit so we strive to bring real love to every person we touch.

That's why I invite you to call (516) 733-7028 and request a free copy of our annual report, *Portraits of Care*. It looks past the numbers into some of the beau-



tiful stories that you helped make possible in 2008.

It is only through your kindness that we can make the stories on these pages a reality.

But my friends,
I ask you plainly:
Will you continue in your loving generosity?

No one can take your place.

You are in our prayers,

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



Please make your tax-deductible gift today in the attached envelope or call (516) 733-7028.

Your Gift Today Will Help Us:

- purchase groceries and formula for young moms and their babies at Regina Residence.
- deliver a hot and nutritious meal to a homebound senior.
- continue educational workshops for our developmentally disabled residents.
- replenish hard-hit food pantries throughout Long Island.
- offer mobility instruction to the newly disabled.

Responding...

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

Generous spirits and beautiful weather made Catholic Charities' 7th Annual Golf Classic at the **Huntington Crescent Club** a success as 151 golfers raised approximately \$170,000 for our programs. Special thanks to this year's honorees, **Tony Cancellieri** of **Park Strategies, LLC** and his wife **Mary Lou**, and to major sponsors **Barbara and Joe Valentine, Donna and Lawrence Maggiotto**, the **Klaum family, Global Excess Partners, LLC**, and the **Charles R. Walsh family**.

Fidelis Care New York has graciously presented a \$93,000 grant to help us meet the increasing medical needs of aging residents at our 13 homes for the developmentally disabled.

The **Maternity and Early Childhood Foundation** continues to generously support the work of our Volunteer Mentoring Program with a grant of \$41,914 in 2009. The program connects young, pregnant and parenting women with role models from the community and offers them educational workshops, recreation, and the support of caring individuals. The foundation has supported this vital work since 1999.

Thanks to **WLNY TV-55** for kindly airing our public service announcements (PSAs) since November of 2008 and for continuing to do so as our partner in building a better Long Island. Watch all our PSAs at www.catholiccharities.cc/difference

Anchors away on a beautiful day! For the second year in a row, **Big Brothers Big Sisters of Long Island** sponsored young people from Catholic Charities' programs for their annual Captree fishing trip.



Our Thea Bowman Residence, Long Island's only low-income housing specifically for disabled residents, was the grateful recipient of a \$5,000 grant from **The Roslyn Savings Foundation** for the support of children's programs at the facility.

Ridgewood Savings Bank kindly provided \$1,500 to help maintain and manage our 1,232 low-income senior apartments and to help research potential sites for our future housing facilities.



AROUND and ABOUT

Congratulations to our **Housing Department!** After overcoming many obstacles, they have officially begun construction of **Cabrini Gardens**, our much-awaited 65 units of affordable housing in Coram for low-income seniors.

We are proud to announce that the U.S. **Department of Agriculture** and the **New York State Department of Health** recently chose Catholic Charities of Rockville Centre to administer their only bi-county **Women, Infants and Children (WIC)** program to residents of Nassau and Suffolk Counties. WIC provides nutritious foods, nutrition education, and referrals

to health and social services to low-income pregnant, postpartum, and breastfeeding women, and children up to the age of five who are at nutrition risk.

Catholic Charities was recognized as "Most Valuable Partner—Best Not-For-Profit Campaign" by **The United Way of Long Island** for our 2008 employee fundraising drive.



90 Cherry Lane
Hicksville, NY 11801-6299
Return Service Requested

Visit us at www.catholiccharities.cc

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Hicksville, NY
11801
Permit No. 796

The Mission
Development and
Communications
Department,
Catholic Charities,
Diocese of
Rockville Centre
(516) 733-7028

Laura A. Cassell
Chief Executive Officer

Editor:
Scott Stepp

Writer This Issue:
Umberto Mignardi

Design & Layout:
Jeff Thureau

Circulation Manager:
Jodi Taggart