



The Mission

Care With Dignity ... Life With Hope

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"The Practice of Love"

Pope Benedict inspires a nation

Catholic Charities was awash in excitement in the days and weeks leading up to April 16th. That's when hundreds of people gathered on the White House lawn to officially welcome Pope Benedict XVI on his long-awaited first papal visit to the United States. The six-day trip was marked by jubilant celebrations but his presence simultaneously offered many Americans a dose of peace and fortitude in the face of a turbulent social and economic climate. His visit was particularly meaningful for employees and supporters of Catholic Charities throughout the United States as he has clearly called attention to the role of charity in the life of faith.

Laura Cassell, CEO of Catholic Charities of Rockville Centre, a guest at the White House ceremony presided over by President Bush explains, "Pope Benedict's first encyclical letter, 'God Is Love' is all about charity being a cornerstone of our faith. He writes that the 'Practice of Love' is as important as proclaiming the Gospel and celebrating the sacraments. He describes them as 'inseparable.'"

"Only if I serve my neighbor can my eyes be opened to what God does for me and how much he loves me."

Pope Benedict XVI



Msgr. Robert Emmet Fagan, former Diocesan Director of Catholic Charities, greets Pope Benedict XVI at Ground Zero.

Pope Benedict's six-day itinerary in Washington D.C. and New York City included addressing the United Nations, celebrating Masses at baseball stadiums in both cities, and visiting the Ground Zero site. Among the guests who walked down the ramp with His Holiness into Ground Zero was Msgr. Robert Emmet Fagan, a former director of Catholic Charities of Rockville Centre (1968-1974), who lost his nephew, James Murphy IV, to that day's tragic events. Msgr. Fagan noted that the Holy Father's presence was truly healing for the families. "I can't exaggerate the sensitivity of this man's face or eyes. He was so connected with you."

Barbara Brady, a Catholic Charities staffer, added, "The sense that he has a real love for those who suffer is what motivates you. His outlook embodies what we stand for here at Catholic Charities."





Hot Off The Presses

Our 2007 Annual Report, "Here in This Place," marks a milestone for Catholic Charities as it celebrates our 50 years of service to the communities of Long Island.

The theme of this report highlights just how special Long Island is. The good work of Catholic Charities is intrinsically tied to this island and to the goodwill and spirit of those who call it home. We provided more than one million services to more than 53,000 people last year alone, but none of that would have been possible without the generous support of people like you. Truly, "Here in This Place" our mission has been embraced and nurtured for half a century.

To the right is a report summary which illustrates how, with your help, we delivered those services. **We invite you to learn more by calling (516) 733-7028 and requesting your free copy today.** Don't forget to also ask for our latest Catholic Charities Directory of Services. It describes our many programs, with numbers to call and places to go for help.

Catholic Charities is a community of friends and neighbors who care. Well-informed and motivated supporters are the first line of assistance for those in need right here at home.



Numbers Served

The total number of people served in 2007 reached 53,262. Last year, we provided more than 1.4 million caring, dignified, face-to-face, direct services to our clients.

Chemical Dependence Services*	.....2,162 Served
Commodity Supplemental Food Program	.....17,255 Served
HIV/AIDS Services	.....158 Served
Housing*	.....2,470 Served
Immigrant Services/Refugee Resettlement	....13,058 Served
Mental Health Outpatient Services	.....2,030 Served
Mental Health Residential Services*	.....65 Served
Nutrition Outreach Education Project	.....4,527 Served
Office For Persons With Disabilities	.....231 Served
Parish Social Ministry**	.....6,757 Served
Regina Maternity Services*	.....162 Served
Residential Services For People With Developmental Disabilities*	.....118 Served
Senior Services	.....3,815 Served
Special Dental Services	.....454 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 5,838 people.



Stories of Hope

Michael finds a home

Michael was 15 years old and already had a history of serious psychiatric disturbances when he turned to Catholic Charities. He was only ten when he lost all contact with family. The state had issued restraining orders against his mother and father for abuse and they both had willingly given up custody. He was also cut off from his much older brothers. Neither wanted to care for him, making him feel even more neglected. Nassau County felt he was not a likely candidate for adoption, his age and disturbances scaring off anyone interested. In a nutshell, he was a kid facing the world alone, abandoned by everyone he ever knew and loved.

That's when he came to a **Catholic Charities Teaching Family Home**. This unique residential treatment program matches emotionally disturbed kids with teaching parents, married couples who care for the children in their own homes while teaching them the everyday social skills most of us take for granted. It was Michael's last hope. His erratic behavior had left previous social workers wondering if they could ever get through to him. Jeff and Linda, a Catholic Charities Teaching Family Home couple, had a hunch that they could. They believed he might also be suffering from undetected developmental disabilities and felt sure they could reach him. They were right.

As soon as Jeff and Linda began working with Michael they stressed that he was now part of a family, one that would always be there for him. They also fought to have his learning disorders officially diagnosed, earning him the specialized services he desperately needed. While there were some serious setbacks at the start, the loyalty and patience of their family paid off with an amazing turnaround. Michael's teachers were astounded by his classroom improvement and the number of his outbursts suddenly plunged. Nassau County's social service was even able to find someone interested in adopting Michael, someone who took Jeff and Linda's advice and eased into the relationship slowly by becoming part of Michael's treatment.

Michael spent a little more than two years in our Teaching Family Home. Today, he is a happy son to a loving parent and part of a stable family. Linda and Jeff knew that what Michael so desperately needed was what every one of us desire: to be loved and accepted unconditionally.

Saving Energy While Serving People

One need only pick up a paper or turn on a television to be inundated with the “go-green” message. Whether it be global-warming, wind turbines, or the price of oil, one thing is clear: everyone must play a part in reducing our dependency on fossil fuels.

Recently, Catholic Charities of Rockville Centre did just that as we officially opened our first “Energy Star Labeled” home. The house was constructed for families living with HIV/AIDS and uses innovative designs and materials to cut energy costs. Funding for the home was provided by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and was administered by the United Way of Long Island.

The program itself isn’t new. For more than 11 years, Catholic Charities has provided housing for people living with the disease who are at risk for homelessness. But only a handful of nonprofit organizations on Long Island have special-needs housing that is eligible for New York State’s Energy Star label. The homes have to meet stringent standards, including extra insulation and air sealing, high-performance windows and doors, and high-efficiency heating, cooling, lighting, and appliance systems. The results are worth the effort as these homes use an estimated 30% less energy than conventional homes.

According to Program Coordinator, Don Pratt, the technology also offers a safer, healthier home for people with compromised immune systems. “Along with increased air sealing and insulation, the ventilation system helps ensure healthy air quality and prevents mold growth, which is dangerous for people living with AIDS.”

Saving energy makes sense. Work is already underway on a new special-needs housing project that will be energy efficient and the agency has replaced its worst gas-guzzlers with fuel-sipping Ford Focus sedans. Howard Duff, an administrator of residential services for Catholic Charities, sees an even bigger picture. “Our hope is to encourage other nonprofits to look for greener alternatives. It’s good stewardship of both natural and financial resources because the money saved goes right back to serving those in need.”



**Senior
Apartments
Now
Available!**

The Catholic Charities housing department is now accepting new applications for the latest openings at St. Anne’s Gardens in Brentwood, Suffolk County. The lovely 100-unit facility built in 2000 offers senior citizens safe and affordable housing with on-site laundry, picturesque gardens and picnic area, and easy access to local merchants. But what makes St. Anne’s special is a staff dedicated to the physical, social, and spiritual well-being of its residents. This includes a full-time social service coordinator who arranges events and helps residents access local services. A pastoral care coordinator also keeps in touch with residents, identifies their needs, and connects them with those who can help. Weekly on-site medical services are available to the income-qualified as are monthly food packages through Catholic Charities’ commodity supplemental food program (CSFP). Space is limited so don’t wait. To apply for yourself or someone you love, please call Barbara McCaffrey at (516) 733-7076.

From Our Mailbag

From our office for persons with disabilities



Four years ago our daughter lost her sight completely. Without your help it would not have been possible to go through the hard times. We owe her success to your help and support. C.

From Talbot House, our chemical dependence crisis and withdrawal center

Before I walked into Talbot House I asked myself, “Where is God in all of this?” After I met all of you I realized God was right in front of me... H.

From our senior services program

I am writing this letter to let you know how grateful I am that you made my mother’s life a little better. If happiness makes a person live longer it was proven by my mother. L.

Your Heart, Our Hands

Have you read the wonderful stories in this newsletter? If so, you probably see why I find myself both inspired and gratified by the good work in which we have a hand. But I want you to feel that as well. You see, this good news was made possible by you. None of it happens without your support. It was you who reached out to 53,000 people last year, it was you who helped Michael find a home, and it was you who helped build a house for those suffering from AIDS. We at Catholic Charities are simply the hands that do the work of your heart.

As this newsletter is mailed only a few times a year, it is with great care that we ask for your support. **But we do ask. Please make your tax-deductible gift in the enclosed envelope or call (516) 733-7028 to make a secure credit card donation.** Your gift today is as important as it’s ever been in bringing Christ’s love to Long Island. I will keep you in my prayers and I ask that you keep Catholic Charities in yours as well.

On behalf of the thousands of lives you’ve already changed, I thank you.

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

Laura Cassell celebrates the 100th birthday of Mary Sesso, who attends our Franklin Square Senior Center.



Responding...

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

The **U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)** awarded \$668,000 to our Project Independence in Suffolk County. It assists homeless individuals and families in acquiring safe housing while moving them toward financial independence through educational and employment programs.

The **United Way of Long Island** and the **Islip Community Development Association** presented \$900,000 in HUD funds to our Special Needs Housing program to develop and maintain new housing and to offer support services.

Anonymous friends provided a \$100,000 gift toward the purchase of a transitional residence for young mothers leaving Regina Residence to live independently with their children.

Our Housing Department received \$68,000 from **Fidelis Care NY** to help ensure consistent, quality care for our senior housing residents.

Cablevision of Long Island generously donated air time on a variety of networks to our public service announcement (PSA) campaign, broadcasting our message of hope more than 300 times in May and June. Log on to www.catholiccharities.cc/difference if you missed them.

Newsday Charities, a fund of the McCormick Tribune Foundation, donated \$60,000 to Catholic Charities' Christmas-Help-A-Family Fund. This was added to the \$54,564 donated by our supporters. The entire amount of \$114,564 was dedicated to making the holidays brighter for 444 families.

Henry Schein Cares, Inc. Global Donations Program will contribute dental products worth up to \$25,000 to our dental clinic over the next two years.

The Roslyn Savings Foundation provided a \$5,000 grant to our Thea Bowman Residence, an affordable housing facility on Long Island specifically for those with physical disabilities.

AROUND and ABOUT

Dr. Fabiola Milord, administrator of Catholic Charities Dental Services, was recently appointed to the **New York State Task Force on Public Health Dentistry and Access**, offering policy recommendations to the Governor's office on how to increase access to dental care for the state's rural and urban poor. Upon her return from medical missions to Ghana, Haiti, and New Orleans this year, she was also featured in the *Long Island Business News's* "Ones to Watch" section. Kudos, Dr. Milord!



Congratulations to our **Massapequa Park and Franklin Square senior centers** on their notable anniversaries. Both have offered transportation, hot meals, recreation, health services, and socialization to senior citizens for 30 years!

The Catholic Charities family bid farewell to **Dr. Paul Kirdahy**, former Executive Director of Catholic Charities, who passed away in April of this year. His gentle manner and passionate dedication were instrumental in his leadership of our agency. While at Charities Dr. Kirdahy established the Food and Nutrition (FAN) program on Long Island as well as Talbot House, our chemical dependence crisis and withdrawal center in Bohemia.



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The Mission
Office of Public Affairs
and Development,
Catholic Charities,
Diocese of
Rockville Centre
(516) 733-7028

Laura A. Cassell
Chief Executive Officer

Editor:
Scott Stepp

Writers This Issue:
Umberto Mignardi

Photos by:
Greg Shemitz

Design & Layout:
Jeff Thureau

Circulation Manager:
Jodi Taggart