



The Mission

Care With Dignity ... Life With Hope

Summer 2007
Volume 11 No. 2

www.catholiccharities.cc

Celebrating 50 Years of Building a Better Long Island 1957 – 2007

Every day across Long Island, Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Rockville Centre helps hundreds of people of every faith and background rebuild their lives. Some need food...some need a place to live...and some simply need someone to listen to them. But all of them find help at Catholic Charities.

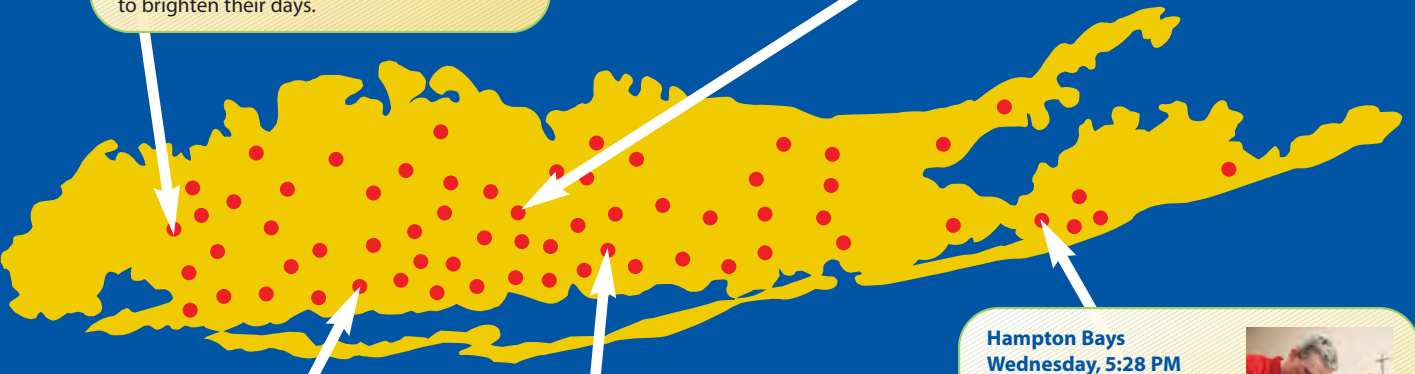
Floral Park Monday, 11:30 AM

Helen, age 87, receives a delivery from Catholic Charities Meals-On-Wheels. The 210,000 meals we serve annually to homebound seniors like Helen offer nutritional sustenance and a bit of kindness to brighten their days.



Central Islip Tuesday, 9:00 AM

68-year-old Mary is welcomed to her new apartment at Bishop McGann Village. Catholic Charities operates more than 1,200 affordable apartments for very low-income seniors who might otherwise be forced to leave their communities on Long Island.



Merrick Thursday, 2:45 PM

Laila, a beautiful six-lb., three-oz. bundle of joy, comes home from the hospital with mom, Jessica, a 15-year-old resident of Catholic Charities Regina Residence for unwed young mothers. Since its beginning in 1968, Regina Maternity Services has served more than 1,000 young women and their children.



Bohemia Sunday, 1:30 AM

Brian, 19, is admitted to Catholic Charities Talbot House, the most utilized chemical dependence crisis center in the New York metro area. He'll receive medical withdrawal care, counseling, and a referral to a treatment program that will help him build a new life.



Hampton Bays Wednesday, 5:28 PM

Pat, a 38-year-old man with developmental disabilities, finishes his workday at a retail outlet and returns home. He lives in one of Catholic Charities' 13 community residences designed to help the developmentally disabled achieve independent and fulfilling lives.



Our 50th Anniversary Celebration Continues...

Helping Hands Across Long Island

With what can be described as an “army of do-gooders,” Catholic Charities held its first-ever island-wide youth volunteer event, the Helping Hands Serve-A-Thon, on Saturday, April 21st. More than 200 local students volunteered at a number of our sites throughout the Island, giving witness to a core value of Catholic Charities: neighbors caring for neighbors.

The young people took on a number of projects that included running social activities and preparing meals for seniors and developmentally disabled residents, beautifying the grounds at homes for emotionally disturbed residents, and performing a choral concert at one of our senior housing facilities. A “tea dance” at Molloy College saw more than 100 senior citizens from our senior centers paired with 140 student escorts from Kellenberg and Chaminade high schools. Molloy also hosted a “thank-you” meal and Mass for the volunteers after the day’s activities.

Our goal was to make the event rewarding for everyone involved. While projects directly improved the quality of life for those served by Catholic Charities, young people were also introduced to the importance of social justice



A Kellenberg student and senior cut the rug at our “tea dance.”

issues and gained an insider’s look at career opportunities in social service fields

Laura A. Cassell, Chief Executive Officer of Catholic Charities, emphasized the importance of the event, saying, “The Serve-A-Thon allowed our young people the opportunity to experience first-hand the needs of neighbors and to share in a constructive response. It’s an incredible feeling to know you’ve made a real difference.”

**300
VOLUNTEERS:
Changing lives
everyday**

At the heart of Catholic Charities’ mission are neighbors who care for neighbors. That message is evident as our Volunteer Service Department responds to the changing needs of those we serve by partnering with more than 300 volunteers of all ages.

Recently, students at Long Island University’s C.W. Post campus have served as mentors to young people living in Catholic Charities’ Teaching Family Homes (TFH). These five homes provide treatment for children and teens who suffer serious emotional difficulties. Each houses four youths and teaching parents, a married couple who teach social and independent living skills while offering support and guidance. The successful program also faces some unique challenges.

Dama Conti, a TFH supervisor, explains, “We have teens who are ‘aging out.’ On their 18th birthday they have to leave the program so their teaching parents are concerned about their futures. We wanted them to look more closely at higher education. When we heard Post students sought volunteer opportunities, it was a match made in heaven.”

So far, the Post students have hosted the teens at several campus basketball games, dinners, and round-table discussions, exposing them to various aspects of college life. The rewards are clear: of the four TFH teens that are college-age, all four are enrolled in college programs this fall semester – proof that nothing can create change more substantially than the one-on-one involvement of volunteers. To learn more about our volunteer opportunities, please call (516) 733-5817.

Holding Them In Our Hearts

The number of people served in 2006 reached 57,890. Last year, we provided 1.3 million caring, dignified, face-to-face, services to our clients.

Chemical Dependence Services*	2,253 Served
Child/Family Health Plus	1,444 Served
Commodity Supplemental Food Program (Formerly Food And Nutrition Program – FAN)	18,985 Served
HIV/AIDS Services*	197 Served
Housing*	1,864 Served
Immigrant Services/ Refugee Resettlement	15,983 Served
Mental Health Outpatient Services	2,167 Served
Mental Health Residential Services*	46 Served
Nutrition Outreach Education Project (NOEP)	4,505 Served
Office for Persons With Disabilities	228 Served
Parish Social Ministry	5,831 Served
Regina Maternity Services*	47 Served
Residential Services for People With Developmental Disabilities*	134 Served
Senior Services	3,643 Served
Special Dental Services	563 Served

* Many receive round-the-clock, residential care.

“When nothing seems to help, I go and look at a stonecutter hammering away at his rock perhaps a hundred times without as much as a crack showing in it. Yet at the hundred and first blow it will split in two, and I know it was not that blow that did it – but all that had gone before.”

That was written by Jacob Riis, the renowned social reformer and journalist. As we reflect on Catholic Charities' 50th anniversary, it offers some insight as to how we've managed to impact so many lives for so many years. Readers like you are those one hundred blows. Met with your unwavering support, the challenges of the last 50 years were overcome by the power of committed kindness.

But that could not continue without your support. That's why I am asking every supporter to **please consider a \$50 gift for our 50th anniversary: just one dollar for each year of service that has assisted thousands upon thousands!**

Your tax-deductible gift can be mailed in the enclosed envelope or call (516) 733-7028 to make a secure credit card donation. As always, I offer you our deepest thanks for your listening hearts and your caring hands.

Laura A. Cassell

CEO, Catholic Charities, Diocese of Rockville Centre



Linda, Chris, Laura Cassell, and Lyisha at a recent event. Linda, Chris, and Lyisha live at Virdone Residence in Babylon



A Little Night Music...

The French composer Saint-Saens, upon hearing the first performance of Charles Gounod's *St. Cecilia Mass*, wrote "The luminous rays streamed forth from this Mass...at first one was dazzled, then charmed, then conquered." What better way could we commemorate the beauty of the human spirit that for fifty years has been demonstrated by Catholic Charities staff and supporters? On Friday, May 11th at St. Joseph's Church in Garden City, the 120-member Diocesan Choir performed the piece to a nearly full house. Led by Choir Director Michael Wustrow, they were accompanied by the 26-member Island Chamber Symphony, soloists Anya Lundberg, Gregory Mercer, and Brian Goff. The evening raised \$9,695 for our programs.

The Rockville Centre Diocesan Choir and the Island Chamber Symphony

Responding...

- The **Maternity and Early Childhood Foundation** awarded **Catholic Charities** a \$45,000 grant for our **Regina Maternity Services Mentoring Program**. Young women facing crisis pregnancy without adequate resources come to Regina and find unconditional love. The program's mentoring component connects them with role models from the community who spend one-on-one time with the young mothers, encouraging their development as parents and workers. This is the ninth consecutive year the foundation has supported this vital ministry. Regina Maternity Services can be reached at (516) 223-7888.
- The **Theresa & Edward O'Toole Foundation** has graciously provided a \$25,000 grant to **Catholic Charities' Office for Persons With Disabilities** for general support of the **Visually Impaired Persons (VIP) Center**. For more than 49 years, visually impaired adults in Nassau County have been able to share in weekly recreational and educational programs at the center, which also provides transportation to and from the center and a hot lunch. Call (516) 887-0768 for more information.
- The **Long Island Community Foundation** and the **Leone Scott Wise Fund** gave \$10,000 to support our **Senior Response Initiative**. The innovative partnership between Catholic Charities and parish communities trains volunteers to recognize the needs of homebound seniors and to then refer them to appropriate services. It preserves each senior's independence as it allows him or her to be cared for while remaining at home in the community.



One of our new friends at Regina Residence.

Around and About...

Two of Catholic Charities' four **Senior Community Service Centers** are celebrating anniversaries. The **Massapequa** and **Franklin Square** centers have each offered transportation, hot meals, recreation, education, health services, and socialization to the senior citizens of Nassau County for **30 years!** Catholic Charities CEO Laura Cassell, noted, "This continuity means the centers have become a part of the community fabric and very much a part of our seniors' lives. Having places where they can enjoy friendships and remain active is vital to their well-being." Call (516) 733-7051 to learn more about attending the centers.



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