

Responding...

- Each year, hundreds of Long Islanders generously give to **Catholic Charities Christmas Help-A-Family Fund**. Last year was no exception, as our supporters donated \$53,079 to the campaign. That included the students of **Holy Trinity High School** who raised \$1,000 for the effort. Along with a generous contribution of \$60,000 from **Newsday Charities, a fund of The McCormick Tribune Foundation**, a total of \$113,079 was available to make Christmas brighter for less fortunate neighbors here on Long Island. Our warmest thanks to the more than 500 Catholic Charities supporters and the many more **Newsday** readers who helped provide warm winter clothes, meals, and medical care to 1,900 individuals and families.
- The **Nassau County Department of Senior Citizens Affairs** has presented a much-awaited "hot shot" vehicle to the **Catholic Charities Meals-On-Wheels** program. The innovative new van is the first of its kind for the county and is specially equipped with temperature controlled compartments that keep hot foods hot and frozen foods frozen. The newly available frozen meals can be delivered in bulk, up to eight at a time, freeing ill seniors with scheduled care from waiting for the daily delivery of hot meals. It will allow Catholic Charities to ensure nutritional assistance to seniors undergoing continuous critical care.



Students from Holy Trinity High School with Laura Cassell, CEO of Catholic Charities.

Around and About...

- This past holiday season, participants at **Catholic Charities Senior Centers** decided to play Santa Claus. Members of the **Seaford Center** donated 75 gifts and an additional 100 blue silk scarves to residents of Broadlawn Manor Nursing Home. Meanwhile, members of the **Massapequa Park Center** held a "baby shower" and raised enough money to purchase gifts and necessities for young women and their children at **Regina Residence**, Catholic Charities' home for unwed mothers. They revealed the heart of Catholic Charities' mission on Long Island: neighbors caring for neighbors.
- **The New York State Association of Community and Residential Agencies (NYSACRA)** is a statewide not-for-profit which advocates for organizations that offer community living to people with disabilities and their families. At the association's annual awards luncheon, the staff of **Catholic Charities' Mother Teresa Residence** were honored for their outstanding service to disabled elderly adults who also suffer from Alzheimer's and dementia. We applaud all our staff whose compassion and dedication make our work possible.



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The Mission

Care With Dignity ... Life With Hope

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Celebrating 50 Years As Long Island's Catholic Charities!

Meeting the needs of a changing community

From its inception, Long Island was an experiment. As America began its love affair with suburbs in the 1950s, millions flocked out of mainline cities to make new homes where life was defined by perfectly kept plots of grass, white picket fences and tree-lined streets. It seemed everyone wanted a piece of the new American dream that looked so promising and peaceful.

Nowhere was this migration more striking than New York City to Long Island. With the great metropolis right next door, hundreds of communities sprang up virtually overnight – the potato farms giving way to shopping centers and freeways.

But the dream came with its own set of challenges. Being a neighbor to the region's economic powerhouse created unique circumstances that often ran at odds with the life promised by suburbs. Almost immediately, Long Island was faced with questions regarding affordable housing, employment, and poverty. Issues of race and immigration also had to be addressed as did the growing concentration of elderly populations. How could a region with limited resources meet the needs of so many and do it while preserving the promise of a better life?

Since 1957, **Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Rockville Centre has been there to help answer that question.**

This issue of *The Mission* will share with you some of that rich history. You will find that our growth has been

Catholic Charities is not only a church roster of 'social service' programs, it is a movement in the church, a breathing of God's Spirit, an expression of God's compassion.

Most Rev. Walter P. Kellenberg, D.D.,
Founding Bishop of the
Diocese of Rockville Centre



response-driven, meeting the changing concerns of Long Islanders with new programs, services, and even new branches. From a community residence for the developmentally disabled in Elmont, to chemical dependence clinics on the East End, to the more than 60 other sites, Catholic Charities has offered *Care with Dignity ... Life With Hope* to people in communities throughout the island.

As we look to the next fifty years, our goal is to move beyond being a service provider and to break the cycle of poverty that exists here in our neighborhoods. We must provide not only compassionate care, but also work for change that will allow all people a fuller, more dignified life on Long Island.

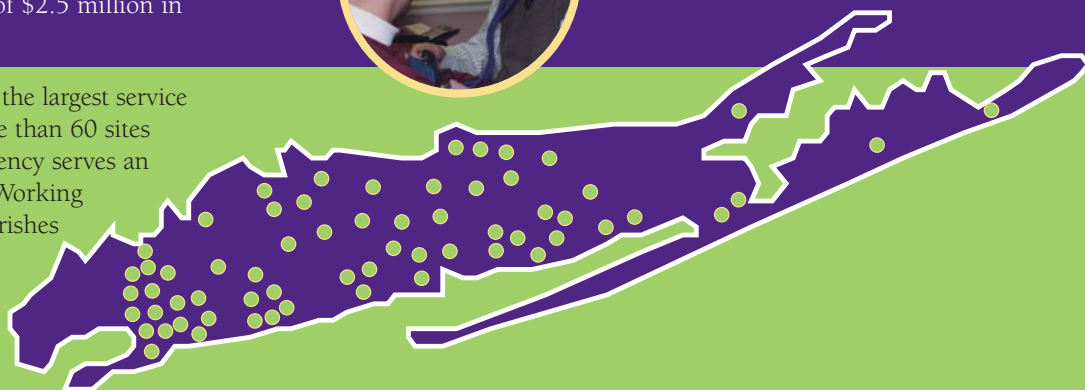
Our work has never been more challenging. But we know that, together with you, Catholic Charities will continue to be there for friends and neighbors right here at home.

Have You Considered a Donation to Catholic Charities of Rockville Centre?

\$50 for 50 years of service would mean a great deal to those in need right here on Long Island. All donations are tax-deductible, and we welcome them with gratitude.

Milestones: Catholic Charities Grows with Long Island

- **1957:** Catholic Charities is established by Bishop Walter P. Kellenberg in May 1957, soon after the Diocese becomes a separate entity from the Diocese of Brooklyn. 11 people staff two offices in Mineola and Bay Shore and serve 1,224 persons.
- **1958–1959:** Offices open in Lynbrook and Riverhead; Mental Health Clinic begins operations in Bay Shore; programs for deaf and blind are added.
- **1964:** Services include youth mentoring, court services, and summer education programs for poor children.
- **1968–1970:** Spanish Social Services unit is formed. Regina Residence, first shelter for single mothers on Long Island, opens its doors.
- **1971:** Family Services Division provides alcoholism recovery services. Agency services extend to the East End.
- **1972:** Catholic Charities serves nearly 9,000 people.
- **1974–1975:** Christopher Residence, first residence for the developmentally disabled, is opened in Valley Stream. 333 Vietnamese war refugees are assisted in resettlement.
- **1976–1977:** Catholic Charities reorganizes. Services are maintained at new Community Life Centers while stronger relationship with parishes is cultivated. Parish Social Ministry begins with three parishes. By year's end, 20 parishes join the partnership. Talbot House Alcohol and Substance Abuse Crisis Center opens; Meals-On-Wheels program is instituted. 250 people are employed in 21 service programs.
- **1978–1979:** Franklin Square and Massapequa Park Senior Centers open. Developmentally Disabled residents number 39. Migration unit adds legal component to assist immigrants with petitions and applications. Housing Department is established as St. Joseph's Village in Selden opens with 200 units for seniors.
- **1980:** Meals-on-Wheels program and Nutrition Centers serve 127,000 meals.
- **1988:** With federal and state agencies, Catholic Charities begins the Food and Nutrition program (FAN), for pregnant women and young children.
- **1990 – 1991:** Catholic Charities responds to AIDS crisis with a new office for HIV/AIDS Services and one of the region's only HIV dental clinics. Parish Social Ministry counts 74 partner parishes with more than 5,300 volunteers.
- **1994:** The first Teaching Family Home in New York State is opened by Catholic Charities; two homes open for families living with HIV/AIDS.
- **1996:** Long Island's first Adult Day Treatment Center for persons with HIV/AIDS begins service in Freeport.
- **1999:** Thea Bowman Residence opens, the only affordable apartment complex on Long Island exclusively for people with physical disabilities.
- **2001:** In partnership with government agencies, Catholic Charities brings relief to those impacted by the destruction of September 11, 2001. The agency provides a range of services, including the distribution of \$2.5 million in direct cash assistance.
- **2007:** Catholic Charities is one of the largest service providers on Long Island. With more than 60 sites from Elmont to the East End, the agency serves an average of 70,000 people per year. Working closely with more than 100 local parishes now partnered with Parish Social Ministry, the agency touches as many as 75,000 additional lives.



DID YOU KNOW

- Catholic Charities, Diocese of Rockville Centre is one of the largest nonprofits on Long Island with 600 staff members serving approximately 70,000 people per year at more than 60 sites.
- Talbot House, our Chemical Dependence Crisis Center in Bohemia, has the highest utilization rate among all state licensed crisis centers in New York City and surrounding suburbs.
- Last year, our Meals-On-Wheels program delivered over 210,000 meals to seniors throughout Nassau and Suffolk counties.
- 11,884 immigrants received legal assistance, English language instruction, food, clothing, and employment services through our Immigrant Services and Refugee Resettlement program in 2005.
- We operate 1,263 affordable housing units for low-income seniors at 15 locations throughout Long Island.
- 112 of the 134 parishes in the Diocese now have Parish Social Ministry offices. Last year, an average of 12,000 people per month sought some type of food assistance on the parish level.
- Our Dental Clinic in Freeport conducted 1,418 visits for HIV-infected persons in 2005.
- 5 beautiful babies were born to mothers living in our Regina Residence for unwed mothers last year.
- Specialists staffing our Central Intake and Referral Line (516-733-7045) made 3,586 referrals to 2,920 persons last year.
- Catholic Charities provides mental health care, maternity services, chemical dependence treatment, immigrant services, food, HIV/AIDS services, senior services, housing, and services for people with physical or developmental disabilities.
- **More than 90 cents of every dollar donated to Catholic Charities goes directly to these programs. Less than 10% is used for administrative costs and fundraising.**

From Our Mailbag



In 1957, I was in need of help. Going to Family Court, they referred me to Catholic Charities. I had gotten a job but yet had no money to pay my rent of \$100. Catholic Charities gave me the \$100, no questions asked. From that time on I earned enough to take care of my son and myself...I am two months shy of becoming 88 and today I am a great-grandmother...I always paid my ex-husband's debts – now it's time for me to pay mine... Thank you a million times – for the \$100 I borrowed. Also, here's \$100 more for good luck.

God bless all of you, M

My mother was a resident of St. Joseph's Village in Selden, NY for over 20 years. She was treated beautifully for the time that she was there. When St. Joseph's Village was new and interviewing people...she was treated with dignity and respect. I know she will never forget that and neither will I. I know the Lord was looking out for her and that Catholic Charities was her Angel. I will never be able to thank you for all you have done for my mother and all the other needy people in the world.

Sincerely, E

Catholic Charities Needs Your Help

As you can see from this issue of *The Mission*, Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Rockville Centre has certainly come a long way. From our first office in Mineola to the more than 60 locations today, we've always been there to meet the needs of friends and neighbors right here on Long Island. Although we live in a region that is richly blessed, the poor, troubled, and afflicted live here among us. But these pages tell a story of thousands of people who have already been helped by Catholic Charities in our first 50 years.

In thanksgiving for our anniversary, please consider making a donation of \$50 or more for our first 50 years of service. You can rest assured that Catholic Charities will continue stretching every dollar you give to do the most good for the most people.

The task is great, but many hands make light work. Together with you, we know we can build a better Long Island for *everyone* that lives here. Please mail your tax



deductible check in the attached envelope or call (516) 733-7028 to make a credit card donation. We are grateful for your support.

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