



# The Mission

*"Care With Dignity, Life With Hope"*

**Catholic Charities**

Diocese of Rockville Centre, New York

[www.cc-li.org](http://www.cc-li.org)

Summer/Autumn 2001

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## Sowing Seeds

*With Charitable Gift Annuities, Donors Help To Secure Long Island's Future*

The 1957 establishment of the Diocese of Rockville Centre, according to *Newsday*, "marked a turning point for Long Island, a recognition by no less than Pope Pius XII that Nassau and Suffolk had arrived on the American scene." Long Island was poised for unprecedented growth at the time. An influx of new residents moving out from the five boroughs into new suburban developments built momentum, while burgeoning industrial and economic activity stoked optimism in the region.

In the intervening decades, Long Island surpassed even its most extravagant dreams of economic progress and development. The region as a whole has accumulated remarkable cultural, social, and material wealth. The Diocese of Rockville Centre has grown along with the region: more than 1.4 million Catholics call Long Island's 134 parishes their spiritual homes. The stewardship of those parishioners has added schools, hospitals, and countless other ministries to the bounty of the region.

Many of the generation that built Long Island are now making serious decisions about stewarding that portion of the region's wealth with which they have been blessed. As retirees and others plan their estates, they have an opportunity to leave a legacy of stewardship that returns a portion of the gifts they have received.

**A sower went out to sow his seed.**

**Luke 8:5**



**And some seed fell on good soil, and when it grew, it produced fruit a hundredfold.**

**Luke 8:8**

To provide parishioners with additional options in planning their estates, the Diocese of Rockville Centre now offers charitable gift annuities. Donors contribute cash or securities to the program and in return receive guaranteed quarterly payments throughout their lifetime, after which the contribution will be released to the diocese. At the time of the gift, a portion of the annuity donation provides an immediate income tax deduction to the donor. In some cases, there are estate tax and probate cost savings.

Most importantly, a participant can select the diocesan ministry that his or her gift will support. The donor can choose a cause that has personal meaning, or a program that has benefited him or her or a loved one. By doing so, the participant helps to ensure that many people benefit similarly after his or her lifetime. An annuity designated to Catholic Charities, for instance, could support specific efforts such as these:

- Our **Housing Department** continues to develop safe, affordable, and comfortable housing options for low-income seniors. As the senior population on Long Island continues to rise—along with home prices, taxes, and rents—these efforts are crucial.
- **Regina Residence** provides a supportive environment for young pregnant and parenting women who face single parenthood. Because childcare and housing on Long Island are expensive and scarce, we are increasing our efforts to prepare the young mothers for the challenges of juggling work and parenting.

Through Catholic Charities programs like these, the time, talent, and treasure of Long Island's parishioners have served those in need since the Diocese of Rockville Centre was founded. Charitable gift annuities and other forms of planned giving can help to cement this legacy of service and provide the foundation for a compassionate response to Long Island's future needs. For information about leaving a legacy through a charitable gift annuity or other planned gift, please contact Scott Stepp, coordinator of public affairs and development, at (516) 733-7042.

# Chemical Dependency Services: *The Hard Work of Reclaiming Lives*

On a pleasantly cool July morning, a van pulls up in front of Catholic Charities' Chemical Dependency Outpatient Clinic on Indian Head Road in Commack. The parking lot is still glazed from the overnight rain. Seven or eight people pile out of the van, stretch their legs, and greet other men and women who are waiting on the steps leading to the clinic's front door. For the next five hours, Catholic Charities' day treatment program will offer support as they face and attempt to overcome the disease that has cost many of them their jobs, homes, and families.

Chemical dependency is widespread. While many people have a drink or two from time to time, with no negative impact, more than 42 percent of the 105 million drinkers in the United States in 1999 engaged in binge drinking. Almost 12 percent could be considered heavy drinkers. In the same year, roughly 14.8 million Americans were illicit drug users. Catholic Charities has offered clinical services to help people recover from alcohol and drug abuse for more than 20 years in Suffolk County. Because substance abuse affects people in many different ways and at very different levels of severity, a range of services is provided.

"Chemical dependency is a progressive illness," says Kathy Ayers-Lanzilotta, administrator of chemical dependency services for Catholic Charities. "There comes a point where a person loses control over their consumption. They can't stop, and abuse becomes addiction.

"Some people come to us in the very early stages of the disease, and some are chronic users. We perform a careful and thorough assessment of each person who comes to us for help. A young person who drank once or twice and got in trouble might just need the 10-week education program to show them the dangers they're facing. Others, with more chronic dependency, might need the therapy groups and individual counseling at our clinics to get along on the road to recovery. Someone facing a crisis or acute withdrawal might need to go to Talbot House, our 24-hour inpatient detox facility."

The day treatment program has operated for more than five years in Commack, serving approximately 450 people each year, each with unique needs. In addition to abstaining from substance abuse, recovery for some might mean regaining custody of children or finding stable



*Catholic Charities' Talbot House Alcohol Crisis Center is a fully licensed treatment facility staffed by teams of qualified health professionals.*



*Counseling is also provided to family members and significant others.*

housing. For others, it might mean reconciling with their families. For most, it means finding and maintaining employment. To meet the varying needs and the individualized treatment plans of these participants, the clinic employs Credentialed Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Counselors (CASACs), psychological social workers, and a psychiatrist. Many services are available in Spanish.

Denise is a client who has come a long way since she began attending the Commack clinic a little more than a year ago. When she came to Catholic Charities, substance

abuse had impacted all areas of her life. She had already exhausted a considerable inheritance on her habit. She had been a successful hairdresser for 13 years, but she was beginning to miss days at work. She was three semesters away from a bachelor's degree, but withdrawals and incompletes began to pile up. "I was sick and tired of being sick and tired," she says. She told her supervisor that she needed some time off, and she began attending the day treatment program.

Another client, Greg, who also went through the day treatment program, had a long history of substance abuse. He drank daily during high school, and was later discharged from military service partially due to his drinking. When his subsequent marriage broke up, he began to use hard drugs. Jobless and homeless, he spent most of 1996 in jail. After a particularly bad Thanksgiving, he went to Talbot House. From there he entered the day treatment program, and has been successfully in recovery

ever since. He is now manager of the sober house where he lives, and he is looking for full-time employment.

Both Denise and Greg graduated the day treatment program and now attend a voluntary weekly group at the clinic. The group helps them to face the many challenges that come with reclaiming one's life from substance abuse, in addition to maintaining sobriety. Denise, for example, still has fears and anxieties about going back to work. "I keep asking myself, 'Am I right for the job? Will I fit in?'" Greg is also striving to find his way to a career, and is currently considering a nursing training program.

Despite challenges, both speak of their increased appreciation of everyday life, and their acceptance of its difficulties. "Recovery is hard enough this way, but I can't imagine what it would be like if the clinic wasn't here," says Denise. "It's harder than I thought it would be, but I'd rather face it now than in the future. Everything doesn't have to happen at once."

## *A View From The East End:*

Any Long Islander is familiar with the traffic that engulfs the Hamptons during vacation season, as thousands upon thousands of visitors converge on the hotels, bars, restaurants, and beaches of the South Fork. The eastern towns and villages see a flood of economic activity during the spring and summer, and much less during winter. The seasonal nature of the economy can have considerable impact on the hardworking people—cooks, wait staff, retail clerks, landscapers, manual laborers, and others—who fuel the East End service industry. Because rents fluctuate so wildly between winter and summer, some people can only afford housing during the winter. During the summer, they sleep in their cars or outside.

"We get a lot of people canceling appointments during the summer," says Wayne Cavalieri, coordinator of East End services for Catholic Charities Chemical Dependency Services. "They just can't afford to miss the work. There's a very stark seasonal change, and the work might not be there for them come winter."

To increase the convenience of the program and to accommodate more participants, the agency operates three sites for chemical dependency services on the East End. An outpatient clinic operates in Hampton Bays, with satellite offices in Bridgehampton and Montauk.

Because there is a growing Hispanic population on the East End, many of the services are available in Spanish. "Some of the people we see are migrant workers," says Mary Bragoli, who counsels people in recovery at the three sites. "The loneliness, being away from their families, and the stressful work schedule get to them sometimes."

All of these problems compound to make recovery a difficult task, which the program addresses through individual and group counseling, as well as educational programs. "The participants have to tell their stories again and again. They have to hear themselves and remind themselves of where they come from, their experiences," says Mary. "Doing that, they become part of something, and they get better. It's great to see someone connect."



*Our Chemical Dependency Services assist individuals and families who desire to maintain a chemical-free lifestyle and ongoing recovery from the disease of chemical dependency.*

## AROUND AND ABOUT CATHOLIC CHARITIES

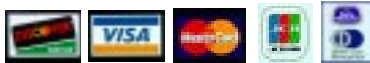
- When Jesus said “welcome the stranger,” he surely had in mind people whose lives, families, jobs, homes, and countries were torn apart by wars, natural disaster, or religious or political persecution: refugees and people asking for asylum. Catholic Charities will be even better able to help them find safety and start their lives over in America thanks to two new grants just obtained by the **Immigrant Services** department. The first, a “*Match Grant*” awarded by the **Migration and Refugee Services** office of the **United States Conference of Catholic Bishops**, focuses on the critical first four months after arrival. In an effort to help the refugee once again become self-sustaining—a goal so important not only to a refugee’s dignity but to their recovery—Catholic Charities works with them, their anchor relatives, and parish volunteers on individualized budgets and employment plans. The second grant is the **Refugee Social Services Program**, a contract with the **New York State Bureau of Refugee and Immigrant Affairs**. This program centers on helping refugees find, keep, and upgrade their jobs in order to fully support themselves and their families, and offers services up to five years after arrival. Together with employers and a team of volunteers that is talented, devoted, and thankfully growing, Charities offers the refugees parish-based job orientation and preparation, English and some basic skills training, job coaching, mentoring, and apprenticeships. On staff in these programs are a former parish coordinator of Parish Social Ministry and a refugee recently resettled from Kosovo. *“For I was a stranger and you welcomed me.”*
- It has long been part of Catholic Charities’ mission to meet the nutrition needs of seniors. Now, through October 31, senior participants in our **Food and Nutrition Program (FAN)** and **Senior Services** can add fresh, delicious, locally grown produce to their diets through the **New York State Farmers Market Nutrition Program**. Each eligible FAN senior will receive a coupon book through the program good for fruits and vegetables at participating local farmers markets through October 2001. FAN received the largest number of these coupon books to distribute of all participating programs in the state outside of New York City.
- For the seventh year, a team of runners from Catholic Charities participated in the **JPMorgan Chase Corporate Challenge** at Jones Beach on July 31<sup>st</sup>. Thanks to the efforts of **Jeff Lange** of our Finance Department, who coordinated the agency’s participation, our group joined teams from more than 250 other corporations, government agencies, and not-for-profits—more than 8,700 runners—to participate in the 3.5-mile seaside run. We are proud to report that for the fifth consecutive year, **Executive Director Laura Cassell** took the prize as top female CEO finisher. Proceeds from the run will support a variety of charitable causes.



*Below:  
Catholic Charities’  
Executive Director,  
Laura Cassell, third  
from left in front  
row, is flanked by  
staff and members  
of the Catholic  
Charities Running  
Club. Photo by Ed  
Moore*

- **Catholic Charities can now accept your donation by credit card.**

Simply call the Public Affairs & Development department at **(516) 733-7028** to make your donation quickly and easily. Please remember that approximately 90 percent of your contribution goes directly to programs serving the poor, isolated, vulnerable, and disadvantaged in the community.



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