



Catholic Charities

Diocese of Rockville Centre, New York

[www.catholiccharities.cc](http://www.catholiccharities.cc)

# The Mission

*“Care With Dignity, Life With Hope”*

Winter 2002

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Long Island and the world look much different as we close the book on 2002 than they did a few short years ago. Recent months have brought a number of challenges, beginning horribly on September 11<sup>th</sup> of last year. After the destruction of the World Trade Center, Catholic Charities quickly brought its services to those people immediately impacted, providing

comfort and support to those most traumatized. As the effects of the disaster rippled through Long Island, we focused on the financial, psychological, and spiritual needs of those impacted by the loss of loved ones or jobs. The generous contributions of thousands of people of goodwill in the parishes and elsewhere totaled almost \$3 million for critical financial assistance to those affected by the disaster. Now, a year later, we are prepared to meet the long-term counseling needs of people in our communities, and along with Catholic Charities USA and United Way, we continue working to meet the employment needs of those who have not recovered from loss of work due to September 11<sup>th</sup>.

Other challenges have mounted in recent months due to the economic downturn in our nation and our region. Even with the critical need for our services, a number of our programs are facing cuts in the public funding that supports them. This is largely due to budget difficulties in Nassau and Suffolk counties. Charitable contributions have declined this year, as well, and our United Way funding is likely to decrease for the upcoming year. We must now explore innovative new ways of more efficiently delivering services to those in need. We must also seek out new sources of funding to ensure that our programs can continue to serve those most in distress.

And yet, even amid such unexpected difficulties, we continue to provide compassionate, quality care. Last year, Catholic Charities provided 59,458 people with mental health care, chemical dependency treatment, maternity services, food, immigrant services, AIDS services, affordable health insurance enrollment, senior services, housing, services for people with physical or developmental disabilities, or a combination of these. Our figures for 2002 will be similar. With the high unemployment rate and uncertain economic outlook, we expect that needs will be similar or greater in 2003.

Our supporters make these programs possible. In light of current challenges, please consider a year-end contribution to our efforts to provide Care With Dignity...Life With Hope. Inside this newsletter you will find a list of what your support can accomplish at different levels. Your support, in whatever amount, will bring a measure of hope and dignity to a neighbor who is poor, isolated, vulnerable, or disadvantaged. Thank you for your consideration.

Along with the staff of Catholic Charities, I wish you the peace and joy of this holy Christmas season and throughout the new year.

Laura A. Cassell  
Chief Executive Officer



# Meeting A Need...

**E**ight years ago, shortly after she began her career as a dentist, Dr. Samantha Ifill knew that she wanted to bring her skills to those who needed them most. "Rather than focus on private practice, I pursued community dentistry," said Dr. Ifill, coordinator of Catholic Charities Dental Clinic in Freeport. "There are so many people who aren't receiving the dental care that is so important to well being. Community dentistry programs like Catholic Charities' clinic remove the barriers, and we ensure quality care to people who are underserved."

Even simple check-ups are beyond the reach of many in our communities for numerous reasons.

People in low- or moderate-income areas might have no services nearby. Those with health conditions such as HIV/AIDS are sometimes refused care. Lack of insurance is another barrier. If undetected and untreated through regular check-ups, minor dental problems can become severe. A cavity infecting a baby tooth, for example, can eventually reach the developing tooth underneath. A minor gum infection can lead to periodontal disease and tooth loss. In addition to considerable pain, these more serious conditions can result in other health problems and can be very expensive to treat.

Catholic Charities' Dental Clinic is an award-winning, state-of-the-art facility with staff capable of providing services from check-ups to dental surgery at one location. The Freeport clinic welcomes all Long Islanders, as well as residents of the metropolitan region. Located conveniently to public transportation, the clinic provides community dentistry that is comprehensive, affordable, and top-notch. Our dentists offer basic preventive treatment, including check-ups, routine cleaning, and oral health care instruction. Cavities can be filled, and old fillings can be repaired. More serious problems can be addressed, as well. If a cavity has reached the nerve of a tooth, for example, a root canal can be performed. If a tooth must be extracted, it can be. Dentures, crowns, and bridges are available to replace lost teeth and improve one's smile. Follow-up visits are always

scheduled to ensure effectiveness of the procedures and help clients make any necessary adjustments to new dental work. Most private insurance plans and Medicaid are accepted. Patients can also self-pay on a sliding scale. No one is turned away due to inability to pay.

The dentists at Catholic Charities' clinic focus on thoroughness and quality. "Some of the people we serve haven't seen a dentist in 20 years, so it can be a lot of work," said Dr. Winardo Lomboy, another dentist at the clinic. "We look at the long term and focus on doing work that will last. We take one thing at a time and explain to the patient everything we're doing, so that she is comfortable."

A number of recent developments improved services at the clinic. A dental surgeon joined staff in June to extend the range of procedures available at the clinic. The clinic also expanded its hours recently to better accommodate the schedules of working families. Dr. Mary Pollard now sees patients on Saturdays. A new operatory was added last year, and another will be added in 2003 if the number of patients continues to grow as expected.

"It's very rewarding to see people benefiting from the clinic," said Dr. Ifill. "That's what draws people to this type of work. The people we serve are so grateful, so appreciative. Many of them have nowhere else to go."

Addy Jimenez, receptionist at the clinic, concurred, "Patients feel results immediately, and they're very appreciative when they leave. You can especially tell with the people who have dentures fitted or teeth fixed. They can't stop looking at themselves in the mirror."

## Photo ID:

**TOP:** The Dental Clinic Team: From left: Winardo Lomboy, DDS; Adhara Jimenez, Dental Coordinator; Samantha Ifill, DDS, Director of the Dental Clinic; Dwight Acacia, Dental Assistant; Ginette Johnson, Dental Assistant.

**BOTTOM:** Dr. Samantha Ifill, right, at work on a patient, assisted by Ginette Johnson.





# Around and About Catholic Charities

- **Immigrant Services:** When the **Village of Freeport** asked the Church to help find a new and better location for the 100 day laborers who gather near the railroad looking for work each morning, Catholic Charities was ready. In September, Immigrant Services opened Long Island's third government-supported shape-up site for day laborers, across the street from the Home Depot in Freeport. The workers are residents of the Freeport area, many from Central American countries like El Salvador and Honduras with the special legal working and residence status that the United States government offered in response both to terrible earthquakes and hurricanes in their countries and to the need of employers here. Many of the workers are hired for construction and roofing, others do landscaping and are hired by homeowners for heavy work and odd jobs.

One group of Freeport day laborers worked for weeks in the recovery effort at the World Trade Center; sadly their employer refused to pay them until the workers organized and demanded their pay, aided by community and media involvement. Benefitting from funding and a strong commitment from Mayor Glacken and the Freeport police, and in partnership with **Our Holy Redeemer** parish, the **Catholic Campaign for Human Development**, the **Workplace Project**, and several community groups, the new location greatly improves at least six areas of concern for workers and other residents of Freeport: pedestrian, worker, and traffic safety along Sunrise Highway; storefront and parking lot congestion; basic hygiene and sanitation; community tension; recuperation of unpaid wages; protection from the elements.

- **Volunteer Highlights:** The **Notre Dame Alumni Club's Community Service Committee**, under the direction of Joe Parisi, helped to spruce up two residential sites. In April, they painted the kitchen, living, and dining rooms of Teaching Family Home's Farmingdale house, and in October, they painted at Neumann Residence in Manhasset.

Also in October, groups from the **JPMorgan Chase Global Days of Service**, with a grant of \$1,000, worked at Regina Residence and Teaching Family Home in Bethpage, painting and cleaning. The grant covered not only the paint and supplies, but also decorations, wall hangings, lamps, and bedding.

- On September 29<sup>th</sup>, Catholic Charities participated in the **Walk On Home Walk-A-Thon for Affordable Housing**, sponsored by **Washington Mutual**. The five-mile walk at Heckscher State Park raised awareness of one of our region's most critical issues while raising funds for not-for-profits addressing it. Thousands attended, and hundreds of walkers raised funds for Catholic Charities' housing efforts. Together, the Catholic Charities team raised more than \$15,000 that will support the development of safe, affordable, comfortable, and dignified dwellings for seniors, people with disabilities, and others in need. To Washington Mutual and to all of the parishes, Catholic Charities employees, volunteers, clients, and supporters who walked or contributed, we say, **"THANK YOU!"**



*Photo ID:  
Below: Staff of Catholic Charities enjoyed the beautiful day while helping to raise funds for our Housing efforts.  
Photo by Rob Manfredi*



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