

## 52 Years of Service

**T**here's a special place in Merrick that has inspired people of every faith and background for generations. The press has called it a "haven" and a "light of hope" but more important, thousands of young women and their children have called it "home." That place is Catholic Charities' Regina Residence.

Opened by Bishop Walter P. Kellenberg in 1969, Regina Residence was the first shelter for unwed mothers on Long Island. Its mission: to celebrate and support young women who choose life.

Since opening 52 years ago, women facing crisis pregnancy have found unconditional love at Regina. With your help we saw to the physical, social, and emotional health of young mothers and their babies. Housing, counseling, and child care were offered in a structured environment allowing them to continue

their educations and find jobs. At Regina, they learned everything from how to feed their newborns to how much detergent to add to a washing machine.

But the landscape for service models like Regina has changed dramatically.

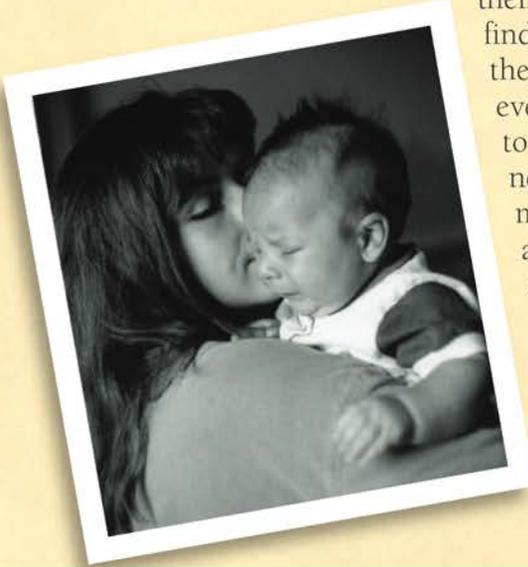
Director, Amy Agiato explains, "Regina will be closing its doors because today's young mothers simply aren't seeking housing like they once were. They need other kinds of help and luckily, we have those services already in place."

These more recent programs were offshoots of our success at Regina and were designed to break the cycle of poverty while keeping families together. Today, our Community Case Management Program and Women, Infant and Children (WIC) program provide food, education, and health screenings to more than 6,000 women and children per year.

Catholic Charities CEO, Laura Cassell, elaborates, "Regina was where the rubber met the road. We didn't just encourage family life, we helped build it. Now we're finding new and better ways to meet the needs of today's young women."



**"In some ways, you need a family to start a family. I found that at Regina."**



**Please know that EVERY donation to Catholic Charities of Long Island STAYS with Catholic Charities of Long Island and serves the needy in our programs and services. WE DO NOT SHARE FUNDS OR DONOR INFORMATION WITH ANY OTHER AGENCY OR ENTITY.**

# A Big, Loving Family

**A**s part of the Regina family, young women had the additional benefit of face-to-face care from case managers who helped navigate the tedious maze of social service benefits. These specialists designed customized care plans that connected the moms to a variety of resources, both public and private, that could help them build better lives for their young families. In 2016 it became clear that the same could be successfully applied to struggling mothers throughout Nassau and Suffolk counties and so, our Community Case Management was born.

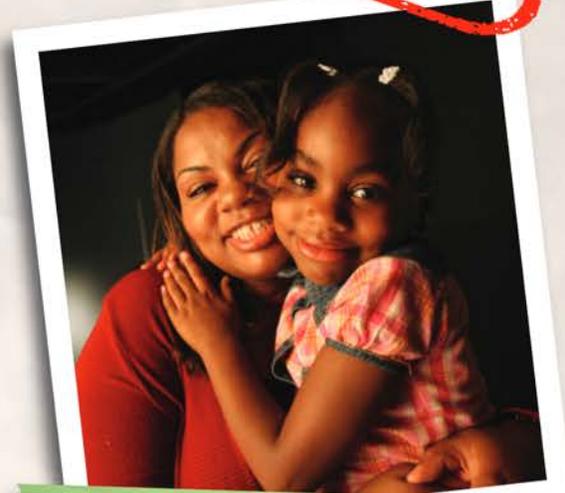
The program has since grown, now providing case management, crisis intervention and parenting education to more than 60 low-income pregnant and parenting mothers and to their infants and toddlers. What does that look like in real-world terms? Case Manager, Veronica responds, "It's like having a big, loving family that's always looking out for you."

Whether it's making sure pregnant moms get the medical and emotional support they need, helping them fill out job or college applications, securing social security benefits, or just finding affordable child care, our case manager is with them every step of the way. **The program is completely funded by the generosity of donors like you** and is open to any pregnant or parenting woman living on Long Island.

## Regina Maternity Community Case Management Program

29 Kirkwood Avenue,  
Merrick, NY 11566  
(516) 223-7888

**COMMUNITY CASE  
MANAGEMENT**



**"Catholic Charities gave me a home  
but they gave my baby a mother."**

# Begin at the Beginning

**WIC**

**M**oms are the heart and soul of family life. If we make that foundation solid, we fix a lot of problems. But we have to begin at the beginning, with pregnant and post-partum moms," explains Sandra Michel, outreach coordinator of Catholic Charities' Women, Infants & Children (WIC) program.

The program started in 2010, serving just 815 people. Since then it's seen extraordinary growth, today assisting 6,000 Long Islanders a year via four locations. The program focus is on improving the nutrition



**"Four infants were overwhelming so we  
turned to the WIC program for help.  
Now we're a big, fantastic family."**

and health of low-income women and their little ones by offering food assistance, nutrition education, and health screenings with referrals to health care and human services. Our access to the Catholic health care system of Long Island and our history of outreach at 133 parishes made us a natural choice when government agencies sought a local partner to administer the service in Nassau and Suffolk.

Services are available to all low-income women, pregnant or post-partum and their children up to age five. But Sandra reminds moms that WIC is not a welfare program so eligibility requirements are less stringent. "There are plenty of working people that qualify because they simply can't make ends meet. That's why we tell any mom who needs help to at least call and ask."

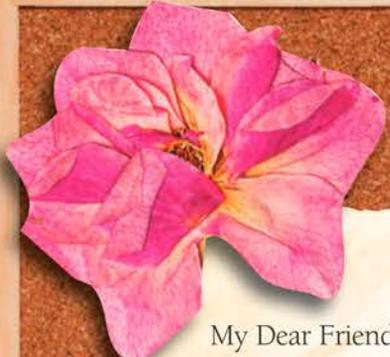
## WIC LOCATIONS

**143 Schlegel Blvd.,**  
Amityville, NY 11701  
(631) 842-4123

**38 St. John's Place,**  
Freeport, NY 11520  
(516) 377-0157

**Mercy Hospital**  
1000 North Village Ave.,  
Rockville Centre, NY  
11571  
(516) 705-3645

**St Hugh of Lincoln**  
21 East 9th Street,  
Huntington Station, NY  
11746  
(516) 459-7638



*You formed my inmost being; you knit me in my mother's womb. I praise you, so wonderfully you made me; wonderful are your works!*  
Psalm 139:13-14

## Celebrating New Life

My Dear Friend,

After a brutal winter, I'm sure most of us will welcome spring with great joy. How pleasant it will be to finally feel the sun's warmth on our faces and watch as nature comes alive with new life. It's been such a long, tough year that we need the hope of spring to prepare us spiritually for the promise of Easter.

That hope is at the heart of this newsletter. While we close the doors to Regina Residence after years of faith-filled service, our maternity programs joyfully embark on a new life of their own. They will literally impact the lives of thousands of young moms who themselves are committed to nurturing life as well. And so the beautiful cycle goes on.

This Easter we ask that you make your gift and stand with those who chose life. Like no other contribution you make, these programs have a ripple effect for generations, shaping the outcome for these moms, their kids, and even their grandchildren.

You will help preserve and protect the institution of motherhood and nothing could be more satisfying.

So please, use the enclosed envelope to make the gift in honor of your mother, grandmother, or any woman who helped raise you. Just list their names and they will be remembered at our Easter service.

My prayerful wish is that Easter renews your hope and your hearts,

Gratefully Yours,

*Laura A. Cassell*

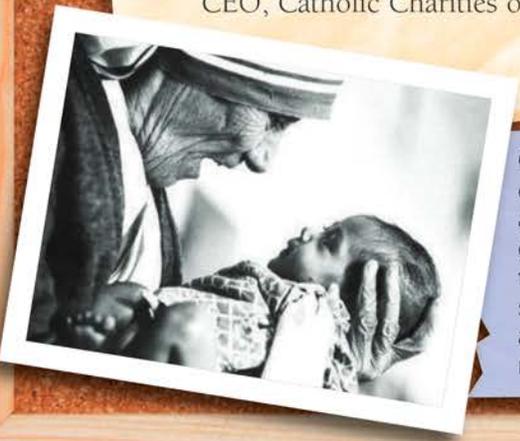
Laura A. Cassell  
CEO, Catholic Charities of Long Island



*"They told us that God would find a way to wrap his arms around me and my baby. It was true. His arms are the embrace of D. Catholic Charities."*

*Way back in the 70's, I was an unwed teenager who was pregnant. Catholic Charities did for me what my mother refused to do. Enclosed is a gift which I send to Catholic Charities for taking care of me way back when. I only wish it was more. With heartfelt thanks. D.G.*

Once I picked up a child and took him to our Children's Home, gave him a bath, clean clothes, everything. After a day the child ran away. He was found by somebody else but again he ran away. Then I said to the Sisters: 'Please follow the child and see where he goes when he runs away.' And the child ran away the third time. There under a tree was the mother. She had put a small earthenware vessel on two stones and was cooking something she had picked out of a dustbin. The Sisters asked the child: 'Why did you run away from the Home?' And the child said: 'This is my home because this is where my mother is.' Mother was there. That was home.  
Saint "Mother" Teresa of Calcutta



# Responding

The faith-filled, anonymous couple who continue to be a rock for their needy neighbors, with their most recent gifts totaling \$300,000.

The 108 golfers who joined us for the 18th Annual Golf Classic honoring Catholic Charities' front-line workers, raising \$173,955 for our ministries.

Our always generous partner-in-care, The Rauch Foundation for a \$100,000 contribution in support of all our services.

The humble couple who gifted \$100,000 to our Addiction Treatment, Regina Maternity, & Project Veterans Independence programs.

Long-time supporters Theresa and Bob Ahlstrom for their ongoing charity, this time totaling \$45,000.

**This past year we were touched by the gestures of love from supporters, many of whom donated their stimulus checks to help others. They have our heartfelt gratitude.**

**Our heartfelt thanks to these friends.**

The Allen E. & Patricia M. Murray Foundation for their continued generosity and their most recent \$30,000 gift.

Catholic Charities USA for their Emergency Disaster Grant of \$10,000 from the Francis Cares Eviction Prevention Fund. The monies will assist Long Island families struggling and in need of rent assistance.

Deacon & Mrs. John Failla for their continued generosity with a gift of \$10,000.

Kate & Karl Schmidt for their two gifts of \$5,000 each, totaling \$10,000 for our ministries.

Paula Desel, Jean Gustafsson, & Anne Desel, whose combined \$8,000 gift will bolster our Addiction Treatment

# Turn Your Car Into Care

Catholic Charities of LI will accept ANY car, truck, motorcycle or boat as a donation and provide you with a fast and easy pick-up and a tax receipt.

Call (877) 507-GIVE (4483) or visit [www.catholiccharities.cc](http://www.catholiccharities.cc) and select "Cars to Care" on the right.



Services and our Visually Impaired Persons (VIP) center.

Our good friends, the Marianist Brothers at the Province of Meribah for their \$5,000 gift.

Special thanks to retailer, TJ Maxx of Hicksville for their donation of beautiful PPE masks which will be distributed to our clients and staff to ensure their safety!

The team at Green Art Plumbing Supply - Kitchen Bath Home Showroom in Freeport, who showered the children in our WIC program with toys.

## Around and About



Cathy from our Wantagh Senior Community Center leads weekly telephone exercise classes for clients like Audrey!



Seniors living at Catholic Charities' Mary's Manor in Inwood recently received their COVID vaccines! Thanks to CVS for administering them with patience and love.

We also offer virtual bingo for our homebound seniors like Sol and Trudy! Keeping seniors active and connected is vital to their well-being. A simple telephone chat with you means a great deal.



## Honorariums and Memorials Cards Now Available



Pay tribute to a loved one's memory with a memorial to Catholic Charities or celebrate someone you love with an Honorarium for their birthday or anniversary. These beautiful cards will tell them that the poor are served every day in their name. Call (516) 733-7028

The Mission  
Development and  
Communications Department,  
Catholic Charities of Long Island  
(516) 733-7028  
[www.catholiccharities.cc](http://www.catholiccharities.cc)

Chief Executive Officer:  
Laura A. Cassell  
Editor:  
Jennifer Regan Haight  
Writer This Issue:  
Umberto Mignardi

Design & Layout:  
Jeff Thurau



[www.facebook.com/CCharitiesLI/](http://www.facebook.com/CCharitiesLI/)

