

# THE MISSION

Care with Dignity...  
Life with Hope

## HOPE AT HOME

### CATHOLIC CHARITIES HOUSING FOR SENIORS

Enrico and Guiseppina Esposito feel right at home in their cozy one-bedroom apartment, located in Coram and sponsored by Catholic Charities of Long Island. At the dining table, the happily married couple of 54 years recounted many enjoyable experiences from living there for the past five years. Enrico enjoys growing things, like the flowers he plants, while Guiseppina likes to cook for her husband, her extended family, and for friends next door and across the way. She also brings cakes and soft drinks to parties in the community center, saying, "Everybody is friendly, and we have fun whenever we go."

The 75 one-bedroom and studio apartments are on one level, each with its own front door. "It gives them a sense of well-being. It's their place," said social service coordinator Ann Saccente. She says the best part of her job is seeing how happy seniors are when they hear they have been approved to move in.

70-year-old Lorraine Coppola, who had been renting a room with friends, moved in last October. She calls it "A dream come true" because she can now host visits with her grown son. Her modest rent matches her limited income. "I'm really grateful to be approved and to be here on my own," she said.

Michael Smith, CEO of Catholic Charities of Long Island, says, "Our housing for seniors allows them to stay near their children and grandchildren in the community they know and love. This helps us answer Jesus' challenge to welcome the stranger."

The property is dotted with many trees, and in the summer, patios with tables covered by umbrellas are set next to grassy areas. The Espositos say their spacious apartment allows them to host family gatherings. They are thankful to God for providing a good place to live. "I'm very happy with what they gave us," Enrico said.



## LARGEST SENIOR HOUSING PROVIDER

Catholic Charities of Long Island sponsors 16 affordable senior housing facilities in Nassau and Suffolk counties. Their 1,329 units make CCLI the largest senior housing provider on Long Island. Rent is 30 percent of residents' capped income, giving them the opportunity to live independently.

Seniors must be 62 years of age or older. For information about Catholic Charities senior housing, look under the Housing Department at [catholiccharities.cc](http://catholiccharities.cc).

 **HOPE LIVES HERE**

IN HIS 2025 LENTEN LETTER, POPE FRANCIS CALLS US TO "JOURNEY TOGETHER IN HOPE"...CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF LONG ISLAND REACHES OUT TO NEIGHBORS IN NEED WITH "A MINISTRY OF HOPE."



# PRAYING WITH HOPE

## LEGION OF MARY ROSARY PRAYERS ENCOURAGE TALBOT HOUSE CLIENTS

For more than a year, volunteers with the Legion of Mary from St. Patrick's Parish in Glen Cove have traveled to Bohemia to pray the Rosary with Catholic Charities clients who are suffering from addiction.

Called Talbot House, the residential stabilization center is one of two addiction treatment centers run by Catholic Charities of Long Island and licensed by New York State's Office of Addiction Services and Supports.

The Legion of Mary volunteers visit twice a month during their Friday evening Recovery Hour for spiritual programs. On Valentine's Day, a dozen clients received rosaries from Legion of Mary members Michael Baker, Chris Bartlett, and Andy Affa, who took turns leading decades of the five Sorrowful Mysteries. Many clients joined in praying the Rosary and took part in a discussion about the Rosary's origin and benefits. Praying the Rosary can lead to meditating on scripture-based mysteries, such as the Agony in the Garden, Carrying the Cross, and the Crucifixion. "It'll bring you closer to Jesus," Baker explained. "It can also help you unravel things that aren't good, temptations."



Baker, who told clients that praying the Rosary is a good way to begin and end each day, says, "We've had a great response." Clients are very thankful and always ask the Legion of Mary members to return. Heather, a client who participates in all group programs offered at Talbot House, including the Rosary, says she enjoys the fellowship and family atmosphere. "We're really blessed to have a place like this," she said.

Talbot House coordinator Toni DeFelice says the Rosary program has had a "positive impact on the clients and myself." Calling Talbot House "a little piece of holy ground in Bohemia," she is very grateful for those, like the members of the Legion of Mary, "who take the time from their lives to plant seeds of good."



## Catholic Charities Delivers HOPE

My Dear Friends,

Many of you have heard that Pope Francis dedicated 2025 as our Jubilee Year of Hope. Jesus, of course, is the true source of hope for Catholics and other Christians. At Catholic Charities of Long Island, the people standing behind our service ministries do their best to live up to our mission of providing Care with Dignity and Life with Hope. It's a job and a responsibility we all share.

Everything Catholic Charities does during our more than 1.2 million annual service visits with poor and vulnerable Long Island neighbors is an expression of life-giving hope, which comes in many forms, such as:

*\*4,000 meals delivered weekly by caring drivers who become friendly visitors to homebound seniors;*

*\*A dozen group residences where more than 100 developmentally disabled adults are encouraged toward independence;*

*\*Supporting Parish Social Ministry outreach to more than 145,000 neighbors seeking help at 110 Catholic churches on Long Island.*

We invite you to join us in spreading hope. In this Jubilee Year of Hope, more than ever, we are trying to build a community of caring. Your participation, through prayers and volunteer work, as well as by sharing gifts, helps us to lead with hope. As St. John Paul II said, "Jesus is living next to you, in the brothers and sisters with whom you share your daily existence."

Faithfully yours in Christ,

Michael E. Smith

Chief Executive Officer

Catholic Charities of Long Island

## CHAMINADE DELIVERS

Students of Chaminade High School in Mineola really delivered last month—18,000 diapers, to be precise, for Catholic Charities of Long Island and our WIC program assisting moms and their young children. The first Chaminade diaper drive was promoted on campus by Catholics for Life and Emmaus, the school's primary service club. A total of 36,000 diapers were collected, with the other half presented to the Sisters of Life, for their ministries with new moms.





# CATHOLIC SCHOOL SMILES

For the second straight year, Catholic Charities of Long Island visited elementary schools during Catholic Schools Week, Jan. 26-31. Students from St. Brigid's/Our Lady of Hope Regional School in Westbury, above, take a break during their intergenerational luncheon with members of CCLI senior community centers in West Hempstead and Oceanside. Seniors joined kids in a Valentine's craft project and drew cheers for playing basketball and cornhole and singing karaoke. Danielle Campbell, director of communications and development for CCLI, shared lessons about Catholic Charities with students at four schools, and Patricia Callahan, coordinator of volunteers, led a program at another school.



## Watch CCLI's New Show "You Did It for Me"



Catholic Charities of Long Island now tells stories of hope and compassion about our caring service for needy and vulnerable neighbors in a new, half-hour monthly program called "You Did It for Me" on the Catholic Faith Network. The show, which premiered in January, is named for the passage from the Gospel of Matthew (25:40) in which Jesus says, "Whatever you did for the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."

The first program shared the story of Dwayne Cruse, a military veteran unable to work and at risk of homelessness until Catholic Charities senior services stepped in to find solutions that enabled him to stay in the home he loves.

Danielle Campbell, host of "You Did It for Me" and director of communications and development at Catholic Charities of Long Island, says "You Did It for Me" will be a "deep dive into the heart and soul of what we do, the real lives we've helped, spiritually, emotionally, and physically."

"You Did It for Me" illuminates the work Christ inspires Catholic Charities to perform for people of all faiths and backgrounds. The current episode focuses on Ukrainian families aided by Catholic Charities' Refugee Resettlement program, including Marta Hrytsai, who, as a Catholic Charities employee, now helps other refugees from Ukraine navigate their new lives in America. Coming soon will be the heartwarming story of how the family of now-celebrity chef Lidia Bastianich was assisted by Catholic Charities when they first came to the United States in the 1950s after spending two years as refugees in Italy following World War II.

The goal of "You Did It for Me," according to Campbell, is to give the Long Island community a clearer understanding of Catholic Charities' mission and the scope of the help it provides.

"You Did It for Me" airs on the Catholic Faith Network on Sundays at 10 a.m., Tuesdays at 10 a.m., Thursdays at 10 a.m., Fridays at 8:30 p.m., and Saturdays at 6:30 p.m. Episodes can also be found on the Catholic Charities of Long Island YouTube channel.



# RESPONDING IN CHARITY

OUR DEEPEST GRATITUDE TO THESE FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS



## CHRISTMAS SPIRIT

One week before Christmas, Santa Claus visited moms and young kids served by CCLI's WIC program in Freeport with delicious treats and hundreds of presents, from toys and games to clothing. Gratitude goes to Peter & Jeri Dejana Foundation for generously supporting the festive gathering and for providing gift cards and gifts for other CCLI ministries. Santa, who bore a striking resemblance to board member Dave Klaum, was a hit with each kid, and moms were very thankful for the quality gifts. A great way to celebrate the Nativity of the Lord, Jesus a light to all!



## PIZZA SERVES UP SUPPORT

Lent is a good time to enjoy a tasty slice or two at Long Island's fine pizzerias, especially on Fridays, when Catholics are called to abstain from eating meat. For the second straight year, pizza shops are serving Catholic Charities a slice of their profits during our Pizza with a Purpose campaign. Proceeds benefit CCLI's Emergency Relief Fund assisting those facing temporary job loss, an unexpected repair bill or a health emergency. Please check [catholiccharities.cc](http://catholiccharities.cc) for a listing of participating pizzerias.

## CATHOLIC CHARITIES 2025 CARITAS AWARD DINNER

CORPORATE HONOREE  
COMMUNITY CARE RX  
CARITAS AWARD  
SISTER CHRISTINE SAMMONS, OP  
SPECIAL RECOGNITION  
TOM & EILEEN ALEXANDERSON

Thursday, May 15th, 2025

## MAY 15TH CARITAS DINNER

Invitations have been sent out for 2025 Caritas Award Dinner scheduled for Thursday, May 15th, at The Heritage Club at Bethpage. The evening is a grand opportunity to meet and greet fellow supporters of CCLI's life-affirming Catholic mission and services for our Long Island neighbors in need. Registration online is now available on our website at [Catholiccharities.cc/register](http://Catholiccharities.cc/register) or you can contact Maren Henderson at [Henderson.maren@catholiccharities.cc](mailto:Henderson.maren@catholiccharities.cc) (516) 733-7028.

## CCLI FACT SHEET ON SERVICES TO MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES

\*Pope Francis has again and again called us to welcome the stranger. Catholic Charities of Long Island's work on behalf of migrants and refugees is inspired by our Catholic faith to welcome those in need and has no political or partisan dimension.

\*Catholic Charities is one of nine national nonprofit organizations designated by the federal government as accredited resettlement agencies. Catholic Charities plays no role in initiating, selecting or requesting refugee admissions, nor in determining where they may settle.

\*In the case of migrants to Long Island, CCLI provides legal services and humanitarian assistance to those on track to achieve legal status.

\*CCLI does not maintain a physical presence, nor is it involved in any work done at any U.S. border. The assistance CCLI provides takes place once migrants arrive on Long Island.

\*In carrying out our Gospel-inspired work for more than six decades, Catholic Charities demonstrates how a process of strict scrutiny, leavened with mercy, leads to successful integration of God's children on Long Island.

*"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you. Plans to give you hope and a future."*

*Jeremiah 29:11*

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CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF LONG ISLAND SHARES THE LOVE OF JESUS BY OFFERING DIGNIFIED AND COMPASSIONATE CARE TO POOR AND VULNERABLE NEIGHBORS OF EVERY FAITH AND BACKGROUND. AS A MINISTRY OF THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH, OUR WORK IS INSPIRED BY THE GOSPEL MESSAGE THAT EVERY HUMAN LIFE IS SACRED.

THE MISSION  
DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT,  
CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF LONG ISLAND  
(516) 733-7028 | [WWW.CATHOLICCHARITIES.CC](http://WWW.CATHOLICCHARITIES.CC)

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER: MICHAEL E. SMITH  
EDITOR: DANIELLE CAMPBELL  
WRITER THIS ISSUE: JOHN WOODS  
DESIGN & LAYOUT: GLORIA HU

