

SEE HOW WE GROW



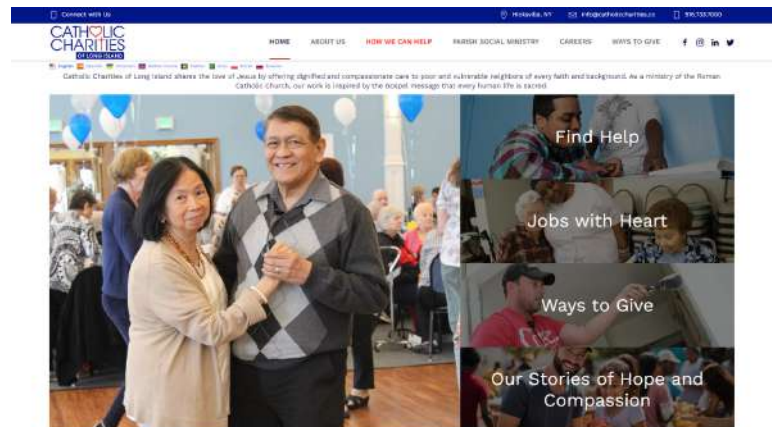
Just as spring flowers colorfully burst through at this time of year, CCLI's Development and Communications Department is sprouting new growth under the leadership of new director Danielle Campbell, a well-known Long Island personality.

Please take a good look at this updated version of The Mission, our twice-annual newsletter for donors. We hope you like what you see here. This is only one of our many initiatives.

These changes are meant to bring our supporters closer to the incredible work our agency accomplishes across Long Island every single day. **We are so proud of the many ways we provide life-sustaining assistance to our poor and vulnerable neighbors, and we want to help you better understand how your support makes a difference.**



We simply must share our story with a wider audience. And we are attempting to do so in new ways such as Danielle's weekly segments on CFN Live showcasing our agency's programs and the people who make them work. We're also developing a vibrant voice on our many social media channels that creatively shows and tells about our big events and goes behind the scenes to describe the daily victories. Make a visit to our revamped website, catholiccharities.cc, the home base for a lot of CCLI material including how to find help, ways to give, employment opportunities and a blog featuring stories of hope and compassion.



Our story is multi-faceted and dynamic, and yet it's also pretty easy to understand. Our name, Catholic Charities of Long Island, says it all. We follow Christ's example as we reach out in loving service to people of all faiths seeking assistance. We're a purely local entity, with programs from Elmont to the East End of Long Island, which makes those we help our neighbors as well.

Whether you share a social media post, volunteer at an event we sponsor or pledge a financial gift, we consider you part of our community. Thank you so much for your support! If you have a question or a comment, please contact Danielle Campbell at campbell.danielle@catholiccharities.cc

OUR MISSION STATEMENT:

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.



SHARING WITH CATHOLIC SCHOOLS



During Catholic Schools Week celebrations in the Diocese of Rockville Centre, Catholic Charities of Long Island met with nearly 3,000 students at six Catholic elementary schools, sharing how Charities offers compassionate care to the needy and vulnerable.

Danielle Campbell, Director of Development and Communications at Catholic Charities of Long Island, inspired students by sharing the importance of putting faith into action. Campbell told students how happy she was to be working at Catholic Charities “We are Catholic, but we help all people, all faiths, all backgrounds.” She also shared a powerful video highlighting the impactful ministries of Catholic Charities. You can view this video and others on our YouTube channel.



Each student received a gift bag filled with small treasures as well as a letter for their parents from Catholic Charities CEO, Michael E. Smith.



The students also created Valentine's Day cards for seniors who are assisted by Catholic Charities.

EVERY PENNY COUNTS

Before Catholic Schools Week, St. Agnes Cathedral School gave an amazing gift of support to CCLI's Regina Maternity Services program benefiting new mothers and their babies. During Respect Life Month in October, the school's 602 students took part in a “Baby Bottle” fundraiser. Filling the bottles with their family's spare change raised an astounding total of \$6,100.

“We could not believe the response from the children and families. It just took hold,” said St. Agnes principal Cecilia St. John, who credited Bishop John O. Barres with the initial motivation to consider Catholic organizations for fundraising opportunities.

St. Aidan School students collected \$1,000 for the Meals on Wheels program as its Catholic Schools Week service project. Plans are underway to visit other Catholic elementary schools during Lent.



Photo by Nick Castelli

ABC

A MINUTE WITH MIKE



My Dear Friends,

What a difference a year makes! About this time last year, I was the brand-new CEO of Catholic Charities of Long Island. It was a homecoming, because my roots are on Long Island.

There were, of course, so many things to learn and understand about our multi-service agency spread over Long Island from Elmont all the way out to the East End.

So far, it's been an exciting journey with many enlightening stops along the way. Part of that discovery was personally meeting our clients and terrific staff at so many locations, whether that be a senior center in Wantagh, a dance for developmentally disabled adults in Amityville or a recent Catholic Schools Week presentation in Rockville Centre.

Everywhere I go, I have the pleasure of witnessing first-hand how hard and well our people serve their neighbors. For the great variety of programs and services we offer at CCLI, our mission calls us to "Care with Dignity...Life with Hope."

That sounds simple, yet it's also a big mandate. There are many staggering needs on Long Island, from housing affordability to senior nutrition and socialization to struggles with mental illness and addiction. Our work begins with seeing each person who comes to us for help as Christ modeled in Matthew 25: 35-40. Such encounters, especially during this holy season of Lent, make a world of difference right here in Nassau and Suffolk counties.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart for the blessings of your generous gifts and prayers. **If I may ask, will you please continue your generosity by making an Easter gift in the enclosed envelope?**

"Return to the Lord, your God. He is merciful, compassionate, and always ready to forgive." - Joel 2:13

I am faithfully yours,

Michael E. Smith
Chief Executive Officer
Catholic Charities of Long Island

PLANNED GIVING



Find out how easy it is to add Catholic Charities to your will or estate and leave a legacy of your own. catholiccharities.cc/planned-giving

VEHICLE DONATION



Catholic Charities accepts ANY car, truck, motorcycle or boat as a donation & provides you with easy pick-up and a tax receipt. Call (877) 507-GIVE (4483)

WE'RE HIRING



We are hiring full-time & part-time employees. Visit our website for a full list of employment opportunities. catholiccharities.cc/careers

Please know your donation to Catholic Charities of Long Island stays on Long Island helping your neighbors in need. Ninety cents of every dollar donated is used to operate our essential life-saving ministries and services.



RESPONDING IN CHARITY

OUR DEEPEST THANKS TO THESE FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS...

The 21st annual Catholic Charities Golf Classic honoring **Kevin Harding, Esq., of Harding and Burke, PLLC**, was a record-setting occasion at the Huntington Crescent Club, raising \$256,095. Golfers teeing off October 16 enjoyed a top-flight day on the picturesque course.

The 2024 Classic is scheduled for Monday, September 30. For more information, please call (516) 733-7028.



Susan and Jim O'Hara are honored to humbly receive the **Caritas Award from Catholic Charities of Long Island** at the annual Caritas Award dinner on Thursday, May 16, at the Heritage Club at Bethpage. Jim serves as **Chief Financial Officer/Chief Operating Officer of Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts**, and Susan, an advanced degree Registered Nurse for more than 35 years, most recently served as **Assistant Director of the Clinical Learning Center/Nursing Laboratories at Molloy University**. Susan serves on the **Executive Board for Catholic Health**, and Jim is on the **Catholic Faith Network Board**. The O'Haras, parents of three children, are longtime parishioners of **St. Agnes Cathedral** in Rockville Centre. Join us in honoring this great couple. Please call (516) 733-7028 for more information or visit www.catholiccharities.cc/register.

Alumni of **Scranton University** will plant flowers and a garden on April 13 at Catholic Charities' **Bustamante Residence**.

Kellenberg Memorial H.S. will be hosting "Operation Fun Day" on April 27 for our residents with developmental disabilities. The day will include: prayer, music, crafts, & games.



HONORS AND AWARDS

Congratulations to **Ele Melendez, the Parish Social Ministry director at St. Frances de Chantal parish** for 25 years, who was recognized as the 2023 Wantagh Herald Person of the Year. "No one will go hungry when they come to her," said one of her volunteers. Parish directors benefit from resources, spiritual support, and skills training by CCLI's Parish Social Ministry staff.



**SCAN THE QR
CODE TO VISIT
OUR WEBSITE!**

GRANTS AND GIFTS

The cafeteria at **St. John the Baptist Diocesan High School** in West Islip was transformed by students and volunteers into a Christmas wonderland welcoming more than 100 adults with developmental disabilities from our group homes. Residents each received a personal gift from Santa and his merry elves, thanks to longtime volunteer **Bob Spina and his team**.

Thanks to **Data Device Corporation** in Bohemia for donating \$550 from an employee dress down day with a company match last September. If your company or organization would like to help in a similar way, we'd be happy to speak with you. Please call (516) 733-7028.

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