



The Mission

Care With Dignity ... Life With Hope

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A Miracle at Sea

The ship is called the *Carnival Miracle* and there couldn't be a better name for the lead player in the story we're about to share. This past spring, 48 residents of Catholic Charities' homes for the developmentally disabled set sail on the *Miracle* to the eastern Caribbean. Through their own hard work, saving, and planning they visited Puerto Rico, St. Thomas and Gran Turk. Along the way they enjoyed tropical paradises, experienced beautiful sunsets, and best of all, forged new friendships that will last a lifetime.

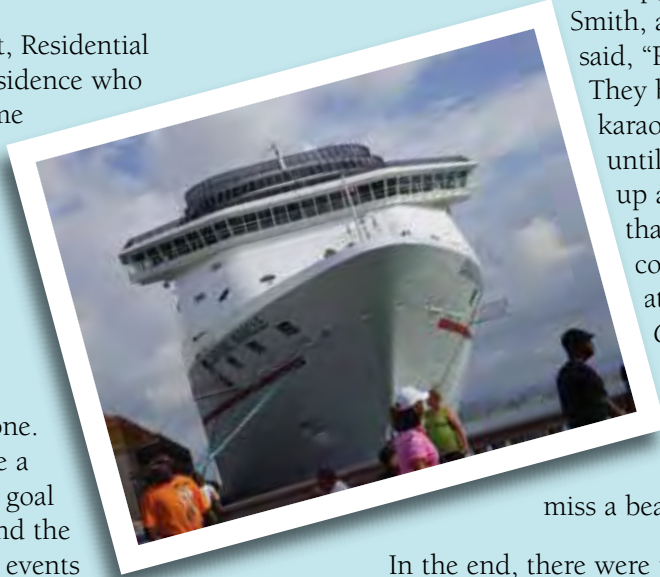
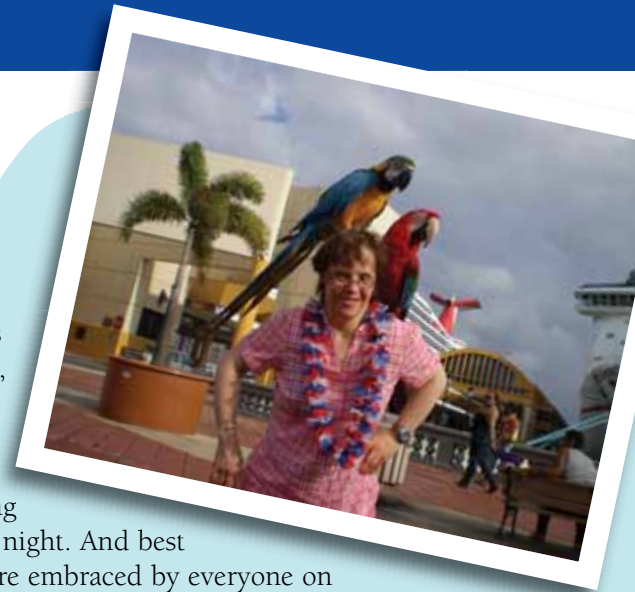
It started with Allison Stewart, Residential Coordinator of Bishop Ryan Residence who was researching a cruise for some of her residents. Word spread quickly and soon residents from our 12 other homes expressed their interest as well. Our staff eagerly assembled a larger but more complex trip. Allison explained, "The developmentally disabled need these activities as much as anyone. For them, the chance to arrange a trip and then work toward that goal is a huge accomplishment — and the connections made during these events are absolutely vital to their well-being.

The staff at Carnival understood that and while it was difficult to plan for so many special needs, they were dedicated to making this a fun-filled trip."

And fun it was. Residents swam, danced, played games on the deck, went to shows and sang karaoke every night. And best of all, they were embraced by everyone on

the ship, especially other guests. Jennifer Smith, a Catholic Charities counselor said, "People took them into their hearts. They became the life of the ship. At karaoke the guests would chant 'Elvis!' until our very own Marla would stand up and sing. That did her more good than you can imagine." Another counselor, Rich, added, "The waiters at dinner were singing songs from *Grease* and our residents jumped to their feet and started singing and dancing the same routines they had practiced for a show back home. The waiters didn't miss a beat and included them in their act."

In the end, there were too many stories to share here. Suffice to say that this trip brightened the lives of many more than our 48 residents.



Have you remembered Catholic Charities in your will? Call (516) 733-7028 to learn how.



On solid ground

"I woke up miserable every day," says 18-year old Thomas, "and I had every strike going against me." A little more than two years ago, Thomas spent most of his time on the street, "smoking pot and getting in trouble with the police." With a missing father who was always either in prison or rehab and a mother working several jobs to make ends meet for her children, Thomas didn't stand a chance. He recalls being emotionally spent from the desperation and isolation that he daily felt. That's when his mom courageously admitted she couldn't help him and sought the assistance of a Catholic Charities Teaching Family Home. There, he met teaching parents Tony and Gina and, for the first time, experienced a structured and stable family environment. He was expected to maintain grades, do chores, and participate in the life of a family. But he also found the patience, loyalty, and love of people dedicated to his treatment. It was tough at first, but today Thomas is a happy, well-adjusted young man who is doing well in school and has lots of friends. He observes, "I wouldn't do anything to mess this up because now I understand that I can do well, that I can be somebody."

**Train a child
in the way he should go,
and when he is old he
will not turn from it.
Proverbs 22:6**



*"I look back and see
that I just needed
somebody to care.
If Anthony and Gina
made such an impact
on me then having
more homes like theirs
would clean up every bad
neighborhood on Long Island.
So I'm asking you to help us
know that somebody cares.
Please keep helping young
people find a way out."
—from Thomas' speech at
the Catholic Charities
Caritas Dinner*

Celebrating 100 Years of Catholic Charities

A tradition of care, across America and in your neighborhood



You're part of a family on Long Island that includes thousands of people of every faith and background. On Saturday, May 22nd hundreds of them came together at Bishop Kellenberg High School in Uniondale to pray, break bread with each other and celebrate the ties that bind them. **That family is Catholic Charities.**

The day's festivities marked the 100th anniversary of Catholic Charities USA, our national association of 1,700 Catholic Charities agencies and institutions across the United States. With the generous support of people like you, they serve more than 8.5 million people of every faith each year, making it one of the largest, private social service networks in the United States. Bishop William Murphy of Rockville Centre celebrated the mass with ten of his brother priests. Recipients of our many services took part in various aspects of the liturgy.

Here on Long Island, your help allows Catholic Charities to serve an average of 55,000 people each year. Paul Engelhart, our Chief Operating Officer and a 13-year veteran of Catholic Charities summed up the day's mood best: "It makes you proud to be Catholic. This isn't a faceless, bureaucratic agency. It's a family because we care for one another – with real love and concern just like Jesus wanted us to. You realize that our lives are intertwined in such a beautiful way that it must be part of God's plan."

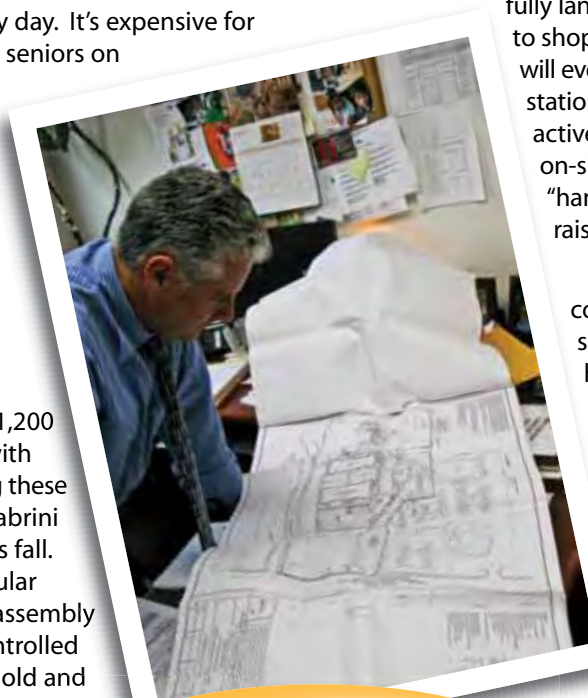
Keeping Our Beloved Seniors On Long Island

Catholic Charities To Open Cabrini Gardens

Do you know or love a senior who is struggling under Long Island's high cost of living? Can you imagine that person moving away because of it?

Unfortunately, that happens every day. It's expensive for anyone to live here, but more so for seniors on fixed incomes. As one of the Island's fastest growing populations, more and more seniors are faced with the disturbing choice of paying medical bills or mortgages and overwhelming property taxes. For them, there simply aren't enough alternatives.

But with the help of supporters like you, Catholic Charities is giving them a choice, building more than 1,200 affordable apartments for seniors with limited incomes. Most recent among these are the much-awaited 65 units of Cabrini Gardens in Coram to be opened this fall. This "green" project employed modular construction, allowing most of the assembly to be done in an indoor climate-controlled facility, reducing the potential for mold and mildew. When the components arrived at the site, the project was 50% complete, greatly reducing the environmental impact of construction. Energy efficient windows and building materials were used throughout and all scrap material was recycled.



**"This is more than housing. These are homes."
— Jay T. Korth**

The end result is two beautiful, three-story buildings with spacious one-bedroom apartments that seniors can afford. As you read this, the final touches are being applied. The site will be fully landscaped with ample parking and access to shopping, churches and the local library. There will even be a "nature walking path" with exercise stations to help residents keep physically active. The buildings have elevator access and on-site laundry while each apartment comes "handicapped-equipped" with grab bars, raised toilets and emergency pull cords.

But most important is Catholic Charities' commitment to the well-being of our seniors. All our senior housing sites have a 24-hour property manager as well as a full-time coordinator who arranges recreation and helps seniors access various social services. A care coordinator will be available weekly to meet the seniors' spiritual needs.

Jay T. Korth, Catholic Charities Housing Director explains, "This is a lot more than housing. These are homes.

Our goal is to make sure that our seniors are happy and that they know they're a valuable part of a real community."

Candidates for these apartments must be 62 years or older with an income of less than \$36,300 annually per individual or \$41,500 per couple. If you or someone you know might be interested, please call Barbara McCaffrey at 516-733-7076

Need Doesn't Take A Vacation

Dear Friends,

If you're like me, you heaved a sigh of relief when summer arrived. For many of us, it means we can finally take a break. The days are longer, the kids are home from school and schedules seem a little less hectic. A vacation or some leisurely day trips may even be in order.

But the uncomfortable reality is that for many of our friends and neighbors right here at home on the Island, there is no relief. I called this letter, "Need Doesn't Take a Vacation" because there has been no lull in the number of good people who fall on hard times. They call for our help everyday; seniors who are hungry, children with no homes, the disabled with no services. For them, summer brings no joy – it changes nothing.

As you enjoy these precious days of summer, I ask that you remember those who are suffering. It only takes a minute to send your gift and make someone else's hardship a bit more bearable. Your contribution, no matter the size, is needed.

Our Lord said that the poor will always be with us. I thank Him for making sure generous neighbors like you would be there as well.

Laura A. Cassell
CEO, Catholic Charities
Diocese of Rockville Centre



Responding...

Our special thanks to these friends for helping us provide
Care With Dignity...Life With Hope.



L to R: Chairperson Eileen Alexanderson,
Honoree Pat Foye, CEO Laura Cassell

Catholic Charities held its annual Caritas Dinner and recognized the outstanding contribution of Nassau County Deputy Executive **Pat Foye** to the poor and needy of our communities. He received our Caritas Medal before 200 friends and family who attended the May dinner at **The Milleridge Cottage** and helped raise \$134,850 for our programs on Long Island.

Catholic Charities cares for more than 100 adults with developmental disabilities at 13 residences across Long Island. A grant of \$121,000 from **Fidelis Care New York** makes it possible to provide a higher level of clinical care to our aging residents at our homes for the developmentally disabled. This is the second year our residents have benefited from Fidelis' generous support.

Thirty-three people with physical disabilities and their families have safe and affordable housing at our Thea Bowman Residence in Amityville. Thanks to a \$6,000 grant from **New York Community Bank Foundation**, additional services are available to them, such as a food pantry, computer room, and library. The grant also supports community movie nights, gardening, and homework help.

Newsday Charities, a fund of the McCormick Foundation generously donated \$70,000 to Catholic Charities Christmas Help-A-Family Fund. Along with \$77,185 raised by our supporters, a total of \$147,185 will go directly to assisting more than 2,000 needy individuals with everything from food to medical bills.

We received a welcome \$2,000 grant from **Target** to support the mentoring program at Regina Residence which provides positive role models to young women facing crisis pregnancy and single parenthood.

Our efforts to build more affordable senior housing on Long Island received a lift from a recent **Ridgewood Savings Bank** grant of \$1,500.

AROUND and ABOUT

June marked the 20th anniversary of **St. Agnes Village**, Catholic Charities' senior housing community in Uniondale. Congratulations on the vibrant community they've built together.

Our Dental Clinic Director, **Dr. Fabiola Milord**, participated in a medical mission to earthquake-devastated Haiti and provided badly needed dental care to nearly 100 people.

Congratulations to our **Massapequa Park Senior Community Service Center's** art class. Their work will be exhibited at the Massapequa Bar Harbour Library during the month of September. Call the library at (516) 799-0770 for more information.

Kudos to **Margaret Gradzki**, an immigration counselor with our immigration and refugee services program on her being honored by the Polish Consulate

in New York City for her dedicated service to their community.

Catholic Charities' Dental Clinic has partnered with **St. Francis Hospital** to provide free heart screenings to uninsured/Medicaid residents of Freeport and neighboring communities. The St. Francis mobile van will be parked at our clinic at 333 North Main Street in Freeport on August 18th and August 25th from 10 a.m.–2 p.m. Call (516) 562-6653 for appointments and information.



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The Mission
Development and
Communications
Department,
Catholic Charities,
Diocese of Rockville Centre
(516) 733-7028

Laura A. Cassell
Chief Executive Officer

Editor:
Scott Stepp

Writer This Issue:
Umberto Mignardi

Photos by:
Greg Shemitz

Design & Layout:
Jeff Thureau

Circulation Manager:
Jodi Taggart