



The Mission

Care With Dignity ... Life With Hope

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NEW BEGINNINGS

Meet a few of the people you helped move in.

How does a New York saint who died nearly 100 years ago impact the lives of Long Islanders today? Ask those moving in to Cabrini Gardens, Catholic Charities' newest affordable housing for seniors in Coram, named for St. Frances Cabrini, the first American saint.



Pauline (L) and her daughter Sarah

"It has been an absolute God-send," explains Sarah whose mom, Pauline, just moved in. "Mom's a breast cancer survivor and pretty tough but with dad's Alzheimer's getting worse we had to find him a nursing home. Mom had to use most of her savings and her fixed income is not enough to pay for her apartment anymore. Her new place at Cabrini means she can stay close to dad, and I still have her close enough to keep an eye on them both. Cabrini gives me peace of mind because it means our family stays together."



Anna (L) and her sister Beth

"I've waited a long time for a place like this," says Anna. "I suffer from spina bifida and I was using my disability check to rent an apartment that was in very bad condition. It was moldy and at one point there was even a raccoon trapped in the ceiling. But my landlord kept raising the rent. It was bad for my health and I had to get out of there. When I heard I was up for an apartment here I could hardly believe it. Then I saw it and I was even happier. It is absolutely beautiful." Her sister Beth adds, "Too bad more agencies aren't doing this because there's a desperate need for it."



Roger (L) and his daughter Cathy

"My dad's problems started when his wife of 35 years died," explains Cathy. "Everything they worked for disappeared. I think the stress got to him and since then he's survived two heart attacks and a stroke. We try to care for him but he's independent and wants to make it on his own. The last time, he ended up in a homeless shelter and hid it from us." Roger elaborates, "Everybody has their own problems and I don't want to be a bother to my kids. Now I don't have to be. Today is a whole new beginning, the beginning of the rest of my life."

"...it means our family stays together."

—Sarah

Keep this possible.
Call 516-733-7028 to make a donation.



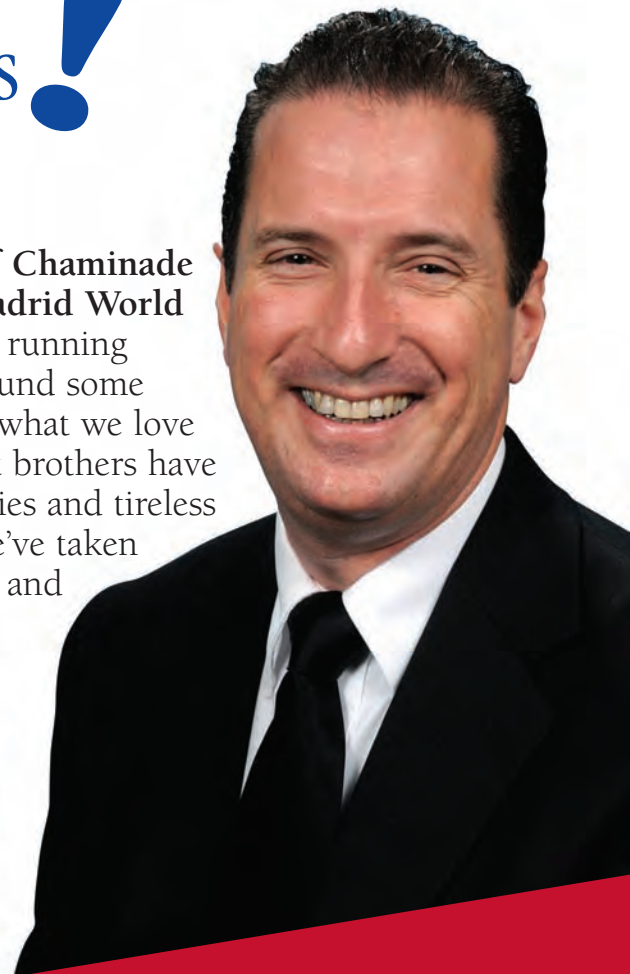
His Enthusiasm Is Contagious!

Meet Brother Thomas J. Cleary, S.M., our new Board of Trustees Chairperson.

We caught up with Brother Tom, the president of Chaminade High School, the night before he left for the Madrid World Youth Day with 150 students. Between packing, running errands and organizing last minute details of their trip he found some time to drop us an email about his appointment. And that's what we love about him. No matter how busy, he and his fellow Marianist brothers have proven themselves to be energetic friends to Catholic Charities and tireless advocates of those we serve. In fact, many of the projects we've taken on in recent years were made possible by their can-do spirit and their gift for inspiring those around them. Please join us in praying for his success.

"It's easy to be enthusiastic when you understand how extraordinary the work of Catholic Charities is.

We're living Teresa of Avila's words, 'Christ has no body now on earth but yours, no hands but yours.' The attitude of everyone at Catholic Charities is just that: we are the hands of Christ — get up and do some good!"



Clean and Sober



"I was up for three days and on my way to Manhattan to buy more drugs when I pulled over to the side of the expressway and cried. I just kept crying and praying, asking God to please help me." It was at that moment that Anne Marie decided to regain control of her life. Having first experimented with drugs and alcohol at the young age of eleven she was now in her twenties and a full-blown addict to what she calls "everything." She was a frequent user of cocaine, alcohol, marijuana, and even pills. As she sat weeping with traffic whirling by, she reflected on how wrong life had become – having left home at eighteen and now working as a dancer in a club. "I couldn't take it anymore. I couldn't kill myself but I didn't want to live anymore either." She summoned up all her courage and drove home to her mother, where she confessed everything she had hidden from her family. With their support she checked into an intensive inpatient facility and got cleaned up. Today, she relies on her counselors and friends at one of Catholic Charities' outpatient programs to keep her grounded and focused on recovery. Anne Marie is finally free from

drugs, working, and returning to school. What's more, she's happy and living the life she knew was hers all along.

Yes, when you seek me with all your heart, you will find me with you...

Jeremiah 29:13-14

Furry Angels

At Catholic Charities we're always looking for ways to improve the lives of those we serve. That's why Bob Cook of Furry Angels Therapy Dogs visited the children of our Teaching Family Home Program and introduced them to Belle and Star. Studies show that pet therapy reduces emotional and physical pain, boredom, anxiety, and allows children an outlet by which to show their love and affection. It definitely was a hit with our kids. In fact, one of them has since enrolled in a veterinary tech program.



Our Teaching Family Homes offer residential treatment to children and adolescents who suffer from serious emotional disturbances. Children live with a specially trained married couple (teaching parents) and their family who provide a stable and structured home with lots of love and support. They perform daily chores, maintain their rooms, and respect house rules. Social workers provide counseling to the children and their biological families with the goal of reuniting them.

The program has outstanding success. Children exhibit far less violent behavior and show improvement in academics with a 99% graduation rate. There is also a 90% reduction in the number of hospitalizations for children enrolled in the program and more than 70% return to their homes successfully as opposed to entering long-term mental health hospitalization or residential treatment. Your kindness makes this possible.

From Our Mailbag

From Meals-On-Wheels

On Friday, October 23, my brother had a Meals-On-Wheels delivery. Steve, the regular driver, noticed something wrong with him and called 911. When the ambulance arrived, my brother was reluctant to go. However, Steve, who stayed with my brother until help arrived, persuaded him to go. The doctors told my brother his situation would have been worse if it wasn't for Steve. Steve is a caring, alert, and humane driver. On behalf of my brother and myself, I thank him for his professionalism.

C.



The 2,000-Year-Old Recipe

My Dear Friends,

I love my work at Catholic Charities. That's because last year alone we fed 59,543 hearts. They were immigrants hungry for welcome, people with disabilities and folks with mental illness hungry for understanding, seniors hungry for companionship.

For many, we were proof that in a broken world, goodness does exist, that God does walk with us. We gave them hope.

That's a pretty wonderful thing to give and I invite you to find out. You see, when we feed hearts that are hungry for God's love, we ourselves are nourished beyond measure. As we grow in loving purpose for others, we're able to fill the voids in our own lives and experience the real joy of living. In fact, this recipe for true happiness was given to us more than 2,000 years ago by a man from Galilee, who said,

"Give and gifts will be given to you; a good measure, packed together, shaken down, and overflowing will be poured in your lap." (Luke 6:38)

My friends, we need you. We need your financial support, your time, your energy and your prayers. Help us and I assure you that you'll be glad you did.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Laura A. Cassell".

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

P.S.—Our 2010 Annual Report, *Feeding Hungry Hearts*, shares some of the beautiful stories you made possible. It's available at www.catholiccharities.cc, or call (516) 733-7028 for your free copy.

Responding...

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



More than \$140,000 was raised as two hundred friends and family members honored **Tom and Eileen Alexanderson** at our annual Caritas Dinner. The Alexandersons were presented the Catholic Charities Caritas Award for their exemplary support of Long Island's poor.

The holidays are right around the corner and our **Christmas Help-A-Family** fund drive will soon be underway. Last year we assisted 2,440 Long Islanders with everything from food to medical bills thanks in part to an outstanding gift of \$70,000 from **Newsday Charities, a fund of the McCormick Foundation**. Our kind donors raised \$55,226 in addition to funds from other agency sources for a grand distribution total of \$139,415.

Our efforts to provide excellent clinical care to our aging developmentally disabled residents received a much-needed boost from **Fidelis Care New York's** generous grant of \$98,000.

Ridgewood Savings Bank continued its support of Long Island's seniors with a grant of \$1,500 to our housing program.

We are always grateful for the continuing support of **The Theresa & Edward O'Toole Foundation**. Their most recent gift was for \$10,000, which supported our programs throughout the island.

For the second year in a row **The New York Community Bank Foundation** has graciously provided \$6,000 to our Thea Bowman Residence for the Physically Disabled. It will pay for a food pantry, library, and computer room.

More than 30 team members from **Price Waterhouse Cooper's** Suffolk office carried out a bedroom and garden makeover at our Regina Residence complete with new furnishings, paint and plants. On behalf of the young moms and their children who live there we thank them for their time and kindness.

Looking Back on 9/11

After the towers fell on September 11, 2001, the question we repeatedly heard amid all of the suffering was "Where is God?" Ten years later, we can see that God was in the rubble, tears, and anguish, but especially in the healing that came after. He was in the sacrifice of first responders, the compassion of medical teams, the touch of every human hand that reached out.

Remember that our Lord entered into our world human, just like us. He suffered just like us. He chose to walk with us. That was how we at Catholic Charities chose to serve after 9/11. We worked not to give help, but to be help. We entered into relationships with those in need, one by one.

Our partners in this ministry were Catholic Health Services, the St. Vincent De Paul Society and hundreds of local parish volunteers. While we distributed

\$3 million in donated assistance, we also offered employment services, counseling, and comfort to hundreds of grieving families. God was there in each face-to-face contact. Today, we memorialize those we lost and offer our thanks to all of you who loved. You remain in our prayers.

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