



# The Mission

Care With Dignity ... Life With Hope

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[www.catholiccharities.cc](http://www.catholiccharities.cc)

**LET'S STOP HUMAN TRAFFICKING!**

**Y**ou might be shocked to learn that right here on Long Island, in your own hometown, maybe even on the street where you live or shop, people are being held as modern-day slaves, victims of human trafficking that are forced to work or perform sexual acts against their will.

If disbelief is your reaction, you are not alone. Many think human trafficking is the stuff of late-night television dramas, never realizing that it exists all around them.

And when it comes to combatting human trafficking, images of specialized law-enforcement teams and hard-hitting prosecutors are what come to mind. Most people

never expect to find Catholic Charities alongside of them, but the truth is, we are.

Since 2004 Catholic Charities of Rockville

Centre has been on the front lines and has worked with over 200 survivors of both labor and sex trafficking and their families. We are core members of the **Long Island Anti-Human Trafficking Task Force**, and we serve as the regional service provider for New York State-confirmed victims of human trafficking and for the U.S. Department of Justice, Office for Victims of Crime.



Assistant U.S. Attorney Demetri M. Jones was a key speaker at the Catholic Charities Anti-Trafficking Training this past January.

Whether it be the 69 Peruvian trafficking victims in Suffolk, or the two Indonesian servants who escaped a home in Muttontown, they find safety in the arms of Catholic Charities. We provide everything from food, clothing and shelter to specialized services like health care and legal help.

Carmen Maquilon, our Director of Immigrant and Refugee Services elaborates, "We can help because they trust us and they trust the Catholic Church won't abandon them. That's key." In fact, many victims will turn to Catholic Charities before they approach law enforcement.

Suffolk County Detective Lieutenant Ed Reilly explains why. "Catholic Charities was doing something about it before it was even recognized as a crime."

## RECOGNIZE THE SIGNS

1. Is the person free to leave the work site?
2. Is the person physically, sexually or psychologically abused?
3. Does the person have a passport or valid I.D. card, and is he/she in possession of such documents? Is someone else holding them?
4. Has the person or a family member been threatened?
5. Does the person fear that something bad will happen to him or her, or to a family member, if he/she leaves the job?

### Visible Indicators:

- Heavy security at the commercial establishment, including barred windows, locked doors, and electronic surveillance.
- Women are never seen leaving the premises unless escorted.
- Victims are kept under surveillance when taken to a doctor, hospital or clinic for treatment. Trafficker may act as a translator.
- High foot traffic, especially for brothels, often by a stream of men arriving and leaving the premises.

**Contact our Immigration Services at (631) 789-5210 if you believe someone might be a victim.**

**Human Trafficking exists on Long Island. Donate today and help us fight it.**



# Keeping Faith:

## A Volunteer Writes About Regina Residence — by Bridget McCormack

She pops another Cheerio into her mouth as she scrunches up her button-nose. I last saw Faith two months ago and she's since gotten over her shyness. She's a tiny, two-year-old with beautiful blonde ringlets. Born premature, she's had numerous health difficulties during her time at Regina Residence but her mother has shown a maturity beyond her years in tenderly nurturing her to better health. As we continue our conversation of giggles and shoulder-shimmies, I hear, "Is that Bridget?!" coming from down the hall.

I met Alison just a few months ago. She was 12 when she became pregnant. When I asked about her decision to keep Faith she explained that she had been moved by her sister's abortion. She valued the tiny life for which she was responsible and so decided to give birth to Faith and to make sure that she was brought up in an environment in which she could thrive.

**"All I want is to make sure that Faith never sees what I've seen. I'm going to give her a better life than that."**

She calls Faith the best part of her life, the reason she gets up in the morning. But I see Alison's mature, almost business-like expression break under the pressures of motherhood, school, and work as she sighs, "She's my everything."

I notice Alison's large, white binder. I ask to see its contents, and she shyly pushes it over to me. Inside is a collection of beautiful poetry she's written about Regina Residence, about the place from which she came, about her daughter, and about her hopes and struggles. I ask her which she likes most; she immediately flips to a page and watches me closely as I read it. It is as heart-breaking as it is lyrical, a story about the murder of a close friend of hers at a young age. It illustrates the hopelessness Alison has felt numerous times in her life. When I finish reading it, I look up at Alison, speechless. She says, "All I want is to make sure that Faith never sees what I've seen. I'm going to give her a better life than that."

Quite honestly, the odds are stacked against her. For all of the life lessons and positive structure the girls receive at this great white farmhouse in Merrick, they often have nowhere to return but to the homes and neighborhoods that got them into trouble in the first place.

Now more than ever, these girls and their babies must be shown that they can and will be accepted into the greater community. There is a place for them

outside the crime and violence-ridden neighborhoods to which they are accustomed. I have never met a girl inside the walls of Regina Residence who is not hard-working and driven to raise her child well.

But, they've seen first-hand rape, spousal and child abuse, and rampant drug and alcohol addiction within their own homes. They've been raised in a society that often objectifies women and rules out the possibility of balancing a career and a family, much less being involved in a respectful and loving relationship. It's only at Regina that they discover a new way of thinking.

I wrap Alison up in a hug as she bends down to kiss Faith's head. There is such potential in her, I hope and pray that she is able to fulfill it.

### With your help she can.

I promise you that whatever you contribute will improve the futures of the beautiful young women I've come to know and the miracles of life they've brought into the world.



Our author, Bridget McCormack, with Faith.



## In January We Welcomed...

the newest member of Regina Residence. Her mom has plenty of hopeful expectations for the New Year. She came to Regina five months ago, after facing domestic violence and then homelessness. Today she's enrolled in a certified nursing program and is building a future of security, independence, and love.





## A full and happy life...

"Mom dedicated her life to taking care of Marion, but when dad died I guess she saw the writing on the wall," explains Richard, Marion's older brother. Marion is developmentally disabled and lived with her mom through her early adult life. Her family was anxious about who would care for Marion if mom passed away and felt she belonged with one of them. But their mom wanted a fuller life for Marion and sensed she could do great things. After researching all their options her mother turned to Catholic Charities' homes for the developmentally disabled and a wonderful thing happened. "I saw my sister changing," explains Richard. "She started working and became really independent. At the same time she had specialists in every facet of care, from her physical to emotional well-being. She gained a sense of responsibility and there was a sense of camaraderie in her house. She had people she could depend on but more important, she had friends who depended on her." Today, Marion lives in a Catholic Charities home with seven other developmentally disabled adults. Each weekday she participates in a wide range of activities in a local day program and even travels with friends. Richard adds, "We came to realize that this is her family now, and we're relieved because Marion is living a full and happy life."

...Do not fear  
nor be dismayed,  
for the LORD,  
your God, is with  
you wherever  
you go.

Joshua 1:9

## NO EASY SOLUTIONS

Dear Friend,

I've had many sleepless nights the last few years. Frankly, finding ways for Catholic Charities to weather this never-ending recession has left me worse for the wear. Everyone is hurting—government agencies, human service organizations, and even charitable foundations. But the numbers of needy who come to us for help continues unabated. Just when the economy is at its worst and people are least able to give, is when people need the most help.

Almost every program we operate has a waiting list, whether it's for food, shelter or services and as soon as we can replenish what's missing, the line forms again. I can't tell you how we keep going, but we do keep going. We scrimp and save and somehow we make it happen. Nobody is turned away.

I thank God for that. And I thank God for people like you who come to their rescue. Just when I think things are their bleakest, the good people of Long Island always arrive to save the day. The most important part of my job is asking for that help.

### SO I ASK, WILL YOU HELP US?

Believe me it isn't easy to do so, but I speak for the 59,000 neighbors who come to us for help each year. They need you, so I won't let pride get in the way. I know that their hope rests in you. So, please, please, consider using the enclosed envelope to make your gift today. And read the stories on these pages to know what a difference your gift makes.

Jesus said that "the poor will always be among us." I guess He meant there'd never be an easy solution—that suffering could be only resolved by the continuous flow of love between people. Maybe that is actually His gift to us.

As always you have my heartfelt thanks, my prayers, and my promise never to abandon those who come for help.

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.*

In 2011, our **Christmas Help-A-Family Fund** helped 696 families in need with everything from food to medical bills. Generous donors like you raised \$65,000 and along with a grant from **Newsday Charities, a Fund of the McCormick Foundation**, more than \$150,000 in aid was directly distributed during the 2011 Christmas season.

Our long-time partner in care, **The JP Morgan Chase Foundation**, continued its generosity with grants of \$30,000 for immigration and refugee programs and \$50,000 for affordable senior housing.

We are especially grateful for the ongoing support of **The Theresa and Edward O'Toole Foundation**. Their gift of \$25,000 will support our programs throughout Long Island.

Our Thanksgiving Appeal raised \$24,000 for our Meals-On-Wheels program.

**Wells Fargo** offered invaluable support to Long Island's seniors with a \$10,000 gift to our housing program.



We celebrate the spirit of the more than **250 young people** who participated in our 3rd Annual Serve-A-Thon (above). This day of service engages young people in volunteer service at Catholic Charities' programs throughout Long Island.

We welcome and thank the **481 new donors** who have joined the Catholic Charities family of care in 2011.

Our efforts to serve the disabled were bolstered by the **Town of Babylon Community Development Program's** grant of \$9,000 to Thea Bowman Residence, our affordable apartments for the disabled.

**King Kullen Supermarkets'** gift of \$1,000 to our Gift of Reading program provides new books to the children in our Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program.

## Around and About

Last year our **Parish Social Ministry** team trained **150 people from 53 parishes** in Catholic social teaching, intake assessment, resource usage, special needs cases, and monthly data reporting. Working with you we can build a better Long Island.

Happy 105th Birthday to **Mary Sesso** and 100th to **Anna Tedeschi!** They are members of our **Franklin Square** and **Seaford Senior Community Centers**, respectively.

follow us on   
<http://twitter.com/CCharitiesLI>

"A man never stands so tall as when he stoops to help a friend." Kudos to our very own **Bill Ruth** (right), a 27-year volunteer for our Visually Impaired Program, on his being honored by **Catholic Charities USA** for his service.

Five of our homes for the developmentally disabled observed milestone anniversaries in 2011. Beebe and Bustamante marked their 5th, Mother Teresa its 10th, Mako its 20th and Seton its 35th. That many of the residents and staff have remained at each since their openings is testament to the home-like atmosphere that we strive for.



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