



The Mission

Care With Dignity ... Life With Hope

March 2018

Volume 22 No. 1

www.catholiccharities.cc



Photo by Greg Shemitz, 3Vphoto.com



I will turn the darkness into light before them and make the rough places smooth.

Isaiah 42:16

His heart wants you to be happy

It was 34 years ago that Bill Ruth's mother went suddenly blind from an eye infection. "She was devastated and depressed. I was searching for something to keep her occupied and lift her spirits when I found Catholic Charities' Visually Impaired Persons (VIP) Center. The effect it had on her was so great I decided to sign up as a volunteer." The VIP Center has served Long Island's visually impaired community since the founding of the Rockville Centre Diocese in 1957, offering them a place to learn, grow, and socialize while developing life-long friendships and support networks. Members gather for lunch and choose from discussion groups, arts and crafts, or even a verbal crossword club, and there are always trips to the beach and ball games. The program boasts just one part-time employee but more than 25 volunteers, many of whom have dedicated more than 30 years of service, like Bill. "Even after mom died, I loved being a part of it," he says. "To be honest, I get much more than I give." His friends there disagree. VIP member, Mary Alongi notes, "He puts a smile on your face. He's a wonderfully easygoing man, always funny and always giving." Carmela DeMarco adds, "He'd do anything for you. His heart wants you to be happy."

To find out if you or someone you know would benefit from the VIP Center call (516) 887-0768.



Did you know...

- is the only center of its kind in Nassau County?
- averages 35 participants a week from over 20 different communities on Long Island?
- regularly features guest speakers and programs, current event discussions, crossword club, bingo, "small talk," and even bible study?
- moves to local beach locations for summer program?

On December 5th 2017, Catholic Charities
hosted our 11th annual Helping Hands
Serve-A-Thon with hundreds of young people in
volunteer service at our sites throughout Long Island.

A Visit from Catholic Charities

'Twas weeks before Christmas, and all through Long Island
Catholic Charities was serving, without ever tiring
But there were people of course, that needed more care
Hoping that somebody soon would be there
To the rescue our Serve-a-thon came like a flash
Christmas spirit delivered, it's always a smash
Eleven years now running, this event it does feed
Hungry hearts of our neighbors with hope and good deeds
Almost two hundred strong, these Christmas elves did appear
To do the work of Santa and his eight tiny reindeer
Spreading the good news of joy and great love
The birth of our Savior who came from above
They started with seniors who needed a smile
Bringing them joy is always worthwhile
So Holy Trinity students took them to dance
Their health and well-being they seek to advance
Or at St. Agnes Village, there was great delight
With a group from Adelphi that sang the whole night
Our homes for the disabled saw the elves too
By the end of the weekend they were quite a tight crew
So many places, so many tasks
Baking, and singing and then arts and crafts
Putting up trees and décor as they go
Leaving the needy with hearts all aglow
St. John's University and high schools galore
St. John The Baptist and Sacred Heart with a roar
St. Anthony's, Kellenberg and Chaminade too
Even some parish youth groups came into view
Across the whole island they went straight to their work
Gratitude and affection just some of their perks
They rolled up their sleeves to spread holiday cheer
And they'll be back for Christmas early next year
As they closed out the weekend, the elves flew out of sight—
Singing "Happy Christmas to all, and to all a good night!"



CATHOLIC CHARITIES



You can donate your car, truck, boat or motorcycle to Catholic Charities and bring help to countless, needy Long Island neighbors. It's quick and easy to do.
Just call:

(877) 507-GIVE (4483)

We're standing by to schedule a convenient pickup and provide confirmation of your donation.

Shopping Cart Care

My Dear Friend,

My mom is a healthy and happy 91 but her every-day routine around the house was becoming a bit strenuous. So despite her protests, we recently arranged for a home health aide to help out and make sure she's safe while we're at work.

As it turns out, this lovely woman mentioned that she needed a folding shopping cart for some of the household chores. You remember the kind our moms lugged around the neighborhood when we were kids? They'd come from the market piled high with groceries or from the laundromat filled with freshly laundered clothes and if you tried to ride in them (we all tried!) you tore right through the wire mesh at the bottom.

Despite these fond memories, I had no clue where to now purchase one or even what to look for, so I did what many people do: I logged into Amazon.com and hoped for the best.

What I found astonished me! There were dozens of carts available and better still, there were hundreds of product reviews offered by consumers like me who took great care to share detailed information. They compared everything: aluminum frames, swivel wheels, rain proof liners, adjustable handle heights and of course, the ease of folding and storage. I was awestruck by this army of do-gooders who expend serious effort for no other reason than to help people like me find what we're looking for. So onward I marched, eventually ordering the perfect cart only to discover upon arrival that the 'easy to assemble' directions were missing. Back to Amazon I went and, lo and behold, another Good Samaritan had posted step-by-step instructions along with assembly photographs for that very model!

When I proudly surveyed my newly constructed cart, I thought how satisfied mom and her aide would be. That made me happy too. It occurred to me none of that would be possible if not for the kind spirits of those customers on Amazon. And there are millions more just like them, offering hundreds of thousands of reviews and guidance for an unfathomable number of products. That's some serious goodwill and it reminds us that at heart, human beings seek to help one another.

It's easy to fall down internet "rabbit holes" that spew toxic sentiment. But my experience reminded me that sometimes God whispers in a world that's shouting. Indeed, good people can be found everywhere if we look for them.

Sincerely Yours,

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

P.S.—Catholic Charities is a registered charity with Amazon.Smile which means they donate part of your purchase price right back to us. It's easy! Go to www.smile.amazon.com and select Catholic Charities, Diocese of Rockville Centre as the charitable organization you wish to support. Then start shopping!



Use the enclosed envelope to make a gift today. Our programs served more than 63,000 Long Islanders last year alone.

**Support Catholic Charities,
Diocese of Rockville Centre.**

When you shop at smile.amazon.com, Amazon donates. Go to smile.amazon.com

amazonsmile

Responding...

Catholic Health Services of Long Island for supporting young women who choose life with a generous \$300,000 grant to our Regina Maternity Services Program.

Our 15th Annual Golf Classic honorees, **The McCarthy Family**, who along with event sponsors, **The William Entenmann Family** and **129 golfers** raised an astounding \$257,175—the largest amount in event history!

The **anonymous couple** whose recent \$255,000 gift brings their total giving to more than \$1.5 million.

Another **humble couple** who anonymously gifted \$100,000 toward multiple programs.

Long-time partners in care, **The United Way of Long Island** for their recent \$52,000 grant.

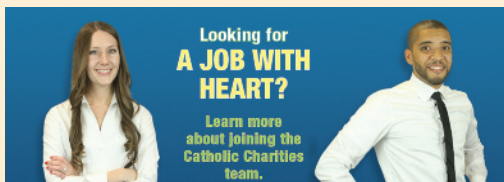
Newsday Charities, a McCormick Foundation Fund for their \$50,000 grant to our Project Independence, Project Veterans' Independence, and Special Needs Housing programs.

George Friedell, for generously supporting our most vulnerable with a gift of \$40,000.

The Estate of Joseph Kugler and the **Allen E. & Patricia M. Murray Foundation** for their respective gifts of \$30,000 each.

The Catholic Health Services Caregiver Fund of the Employees for their \$20,000 grant to our Regina Community Program.

Fr. Charles & Laurie Mangano for hosting the Mater Dei Music Festival and raising \$15,000 for our Franklin Square Senior Center.



Visit www.catholiccharities.cc/jobs/

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

www.catholiccharities.cc

Laura A. Cassell
Chief Executive Officer
Editor:
Jennifer Regan Haight

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

Find us on:
facebook

www.facebook.com/CCharitiesLI/

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

Participants in the Diocese of Rockville Centre's Exercise For Others campaign who together raised nearly \$12,000 for our ministries.

Alliance Bernstein, Dennis Brady, Kevin Simms and an **anonymous individual** for their respective gifts of \$10,000 each.

New York Community Bank Foundation for providing \$8,000 to our Immigrant Services Program.

Our most heartfelt thanks to 90-year old Estelle Steck who has crocheted an astonishing 136 blankets for our senior residents at **Mary's Manor, Thea Bowman, and Bishop Ryan Village** and for babies in our **Women Infants and Children (WIC)** program. Her selfless example inspires us to work harder and love more every day.



Around and About

Alcoholism and drug addiction affect millions of people and even more family members. Our free Family Education Series is an on-going weekly program that is open to ANYONE impacted by addiction. Interested in attending? Call (631) 543-6200 ext. 320.

Since opening in April, 2017 our new Chemical Dependence Wrap-Around Services have served 215 clients at our Commack, Bohemia, and Hampton Bays locations with referrals for nutrition assistance, insurance, housing, clothing, childcare, career development, employment, and even transportation. If you or someone you know is battling addiction call (631) 543-6200 for help.

We welcome new Board of Trustees members: **William Ayers, Joseph E. Garay, Rev. John Sureau** (Vice Chair), **Glenn W. Tyranski** and new corporation and committee members: **Carolynn J. Lucca Black, Allison O'Brien, Lisa Savino FitzGerald** and **Anthony W. Patten**.

Congratulations to our team at our Nutrition Outreach Education Project (NOEP) on their 20th anniversary of feeding Long Island's hungry.



Our Immigrant Services team had the honor of hosting **His Eminence, Cardinal Gregorio Rosa Chávez of El Salvador** who once stood shoulder to shoulder with Archbishop Oscar Romero before he was assassinated. The Cardinal came to New York to help address concerns over gang violence and immigration with a resounding message of love and tolerance.

