

In 2018 YOU made more than 1.4 million face-to-face services to 45,475 Long Island neighbors possible.

Chemical Dependence Services***4,105** served
Disaster Response**120** served
Food and Nutrition**17,070** served
Housing***4,641** served
Immigrant Services/
Refugee Resettlement...**10,346** served
Mental Health
Outpatient Services**2,254** served
Mental Health Residential
Services***137** served
Parish Social Ministry**...**2,234** served
Regina Maternity
Services***174** served
Residential Services for People With
Developmental Disabilities*...**272** served
Senior Services.....**4,122** served

**Many participants in these programs receive round-the-clock, residential care.*

***The Parish Social Ministry staff also supported parish programs that serve people in their local communities by holding trainings and conferences that were attended by 2,003 people.*



**Will you help us help Long Island?
Please use the enclosed envelope to send your gift today or call (516) 733-7042.**

Please know that EVERY donation to Catholic Charities of Long Island STAYS with Catholic Charities of Long Island and serves the needy in our programs and services. We do not share funds or donor information with any other agency or entity.

Photo by Greg Shemitz, 3Vphoto.com



Use the QR reader on your phone to watch our seniors and the Wayne Weiner Band!



“When I get home from here, all my aches and pains have disappeared. I feel so young I have to look in the mirror to see if I still have grey hair.” Anna’s talking about her Thursdays at the Catholic Charities Senior Center in Franklin Square, where the Wayne Weiner band plays big band favorites for seniors of every faith and background. For more than 20 years, they come from across Nassau County for a dose of what they call the “best medicine,” and to spend the morning dancing, laughing and making new memories with friends.

Longtime trumpet player Wayne, for whom the ban is eponymously named, inherited the group’s leadership a number of years ago from a friend. “I knew something extraordinary was happening here and I wanted to keep it going. Most of us in the band have other paid gigs but volunteering to play at the center is by far the most satisfying for us. To see the joy on their faces and to feel their appreciation really charges us up.”

Saxophone player Bill Rothchild adds, “This is just a beautiful New York story. People from every kind of background, young and old, play in this band. We have college students, schoolteachers, actors, and even a 97-year old who still jams with the band. We do it because we love music and we know it has a healthy effect on people. And that’s what being a musician is all about, healing people.”

Marie can speak to that truth. She’s the group’s 82-year-old dance instructor, there to help those who don’t feel confident about dancing to find their groove. But the senior center’s big band has personal meaning for her as well. “When my husband died 10 years ago, I was so devastated that I didn’t leave my house for months. But a counselor told me that people heal faster with music so I came to hear this band play. They lifted my spirits and helped me to be happy again.”

Anna sums up the sentiment best, saying, “Catholic Charities does more than just give us a place to meet. They know music improves your quality of life because it makes you feel young again. Music makes you come alive and it reminds you just how sweet life is.” We couldn’t agree more.

Photos by Greg Shemitz, 3VPhoto.com

CATHOLIC CHARITIES



We turn cars into CARE

Get a Few More Miles Out of Ol’ Faithful

Donating your unused car, truck, motorcycle or even boat can do a world of good for vulnerable neighbors here on Long Island. It helps us:

- deliver Meals-On-Wheels to homebound seniors
- house returning veterans suffering from mental illness
- battle addiction with our 24-hour stabilization center...to name just a few.

Call (877) 507-GIVE (4483) or visit www.catholiccharities.cc and click on “Cars to Care” on the right.

We’ll schedule a convenient pickup and provide tax confirmation of your donation.

My Dear Friends,

To be honest, I had a lousy summer and as odd as this sounds, you had a hand in saving me from it.

It started with the painful loss of one of my brothers whose death caught us by surprise. And before we could even process his absence we were struck by yet another family crisis that left my heart aching.

As August rolled around, I threw myself into my job with hopes it would distract me from my woes. And it did just that—not because I was inundated with work, but because I was inundated with LOVE!

Of course, you can read about the tens of thousands of Long Islanders we serve on the cover of this newsletter. But I know good people like you are not moved by statistics. Neither am I. That's why I got back to brass tacks and started visiting as many of our sites as I could. You see, **the simple act of being present where there is suffering means you're also present for the miracle of healing.** When you meet the single, young mother returning to school, when you witness a recovering heroin addict stay clean, when you see senior citizens rebuild lives after debilitating illness, you start to feel God's good grace. And that makes it hard to wallow in self-pity.

So in a roundabout way, your kindness is what lifts me up. It is you who allow that young mom to go back to school, you sponsor nurses for an addict's withdrawal, and you rent the centers where seniors find new life. **Most important, you give people hope.**

I take great solace in knowing good people like you will always be there, ready to roll up their sleeves and lend a hand. That's what gave me courage this summer and for that, I thank you.

I hope you continue your kindness with the enclosed gift envelope.

Please keep me in your prayers as I will keep you in mine,



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



SNAPSHOTS From the Heart



What do these furry scamps and a cookout have in common? They're both part of the full slate of activities we offer at Mary's Manor, our enriched housing facility for senior citizens. In June, we hosted a special Father's Day barbecue to celebrate all the dads in residence. A few days later these cute pooches were brought in for our first-ever Puppy Therapy Day!



Honoring all moms!

This past Mother's Day our devoted Meals-On-Wheels teams collected over 200 flower arrangements from fellow employees and personally presented them to all the mothers and grandmothers who have meals delivered, making sure they know they are loved.



Just two cool cats playing songs from the heart for the seniors living in St. Anne's Gardens, one of our 15 affordable senior housing facilities!

These military veterans served our country and now continue their service by sharing their music with their local communities.



In May Bishop Barres celebrated our annual mass in honor of St. Joseph, the patron saint of the aging, which was followed by a reception for the seniors of Nassau and Suffolk counties! More than 200 people from our Meals-on-Wheels, Case Management, Senior Centers and Affordable Senior Housing programs came together to celebrate!





"Jesus wants hearts that are open and tender towards the weak, never hearts that are hardened."
—Pope Francis

Around and About

Thanks to **Diane Ammirati, Director of our Office for Persons with Developmental Disabilities** for 25 years of faith-filled service. Our best wishes as she retires.



2019 marked some notable anniversaries that include the 40th anniversary of our **Wantagh Senior Community Service Center** and the **25th Anniversary of Msgr. Reel Village** in Medford, one of our 15 affordable housing communities for seniors.

Kudos to **Izabela Sliwowska, our Program Coordinator for Meals On Wheels**, for her recent appointment to the planning committee for the Alzheimer Association's Annual Hispanic Symposium.



In June we hosted our 2nd annual **World Refugee Day** with the food, music, and dance of new neighbors from around the world. "Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it." - *Hebrews 13:2*

Our **33rd Annual Employee Service Recognition Luncheon** honored 52 team members on their various milestone employment anniversaries. Combined, these dedicated men and women have offered more than **500 years of service** to Catholic Charities.

On behalf of the thousands of lives she impacted through her counseling, our sincerest thanks to **Maggie Gentile** as she retires a 37-year veteran from our **Chemical Dependence Services**.



August was Breastfeeding Awareness Month and the Catholic Charities **Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program** promoted baby-friendly initiatives, built awareness of nursing, and supported new moms. In addition to our annual Breastfeeding Walk and Baby Shower we sponsored free screenings of the film, *Chocolate Milk* and worked with The Suffolk County Executive's Office of Women's Services at *The Big Latch On*, their annual awareness event at Jones Beach.

Responding...

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

Caritas Dinner honoree and long-time trustee, Michael X. Mattone of The Mattone Group, LLC. Together with 293 family and friends, he helped Catholic Charities raise a record-breaking \$279,017.

Our partners in care, **Newsday Charities, a McCormick Foundation Fund** for \$40,000 to aid our Housing and Supportive Services Program.



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