

WE ARE THERE.

GIVE. VOLUNTEER. SUPPORT.

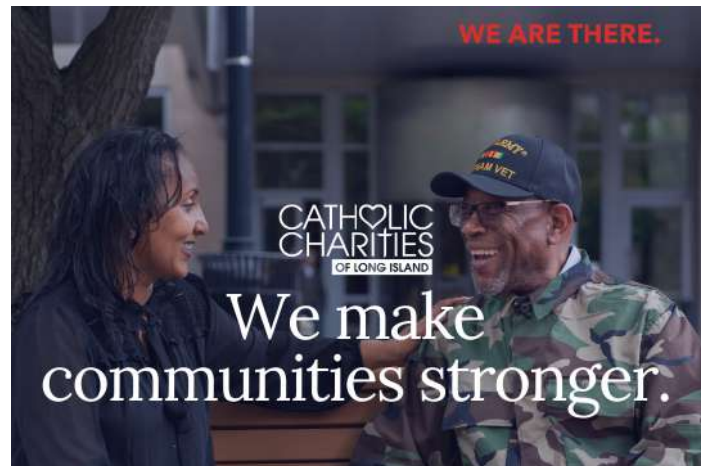
The Catholic Church in America has established 168 networked Catholic Charities to continue the important work of our Lord Jesus Christ on behalf of the needy and vulnerable. Here on Long Island, with 1.2 million face-to-face visits in 2023 alone, Catholic Charities of Long Island (CCLI) ministers in the name of the Church of the Diocese of Rockville Centre.

Did you know, for instance, that these local Catholic Charities groups around the country combined last year to serve more than 15 million people or that they also provided over 30 million meals to the hungry? These dynamic responses directly answer the call of our Lord Jesus in Matthew 25:35-40 to remember the least among us. Caring for Long Islanders is our exclusive mission. By doing so we are “Eucharistic people” — offering our lives in service to one another for the glory of God.

Catholic Charities USA is currently leading a national awareness campaign called We Are There to promote the life-giving work being done by Catholic Charities organizations. CCLI is an enthusiastic participant, along with dozens of other Catholic Charities organizations. The campaign, which began



in June, will continue until early 2025. Getting the word out features advertisements in national media outlets. Pope Francis himself mentioned this in his World Day of the Poor letter this year. Here at Catholic Charities on Long Island, we



are doing our part by sharing graphics like the ones on this page and other information about the campaign in our social media posts, blogs and website. In fact, we thought “We Are There” was such a good idea that we are making it the theme of this issue of The Mission.

We are there for our neighbors here on Long Island every day and we have been for over 65 years, but we can use your help. To learn how to volunteer or make a gift supporting the work of Catholic Charities of Long Island, please visit catholiccharities.cc. Please know your donation to CCLI stays with us and serves the individuals in our ministries. We do not share funds or donor information with any other agency or entity.

OUR MISSION STATEMENT:

Catholic Charities of Long Island shares the love of Jesus by offering dignified and compassionate care to poor and vulnerable neighbors of every faith and background. As a ministry of the Roman Catholic Church, our work is inspired by the Gospel message that every human life is sacred.

OUR EMERGENCY RELIEF FUND CAN USE YOUR HELP

The Emergency Relief Fund has long been a dependable resource for many who seek help from Catholic Charities of Long Island. The fund assists those in dire need, whether the financial shortfall stems from temporary job loss, a costly car repair bill or rental arrears. The fund provides financial assistance in a crisis situation to allow a person, and their families, to get back on their feet. Those we serve are like the needy who “press in on Jesus” to seek his healing touch in the Gospels.

In recent years, CCLI did not have reliable funding for ERF. Bright spots have recently developed. The popular Pizza with a Purpose campaign, in which Long Island pizzerias agree to donate a portion of their Lenten sales to Catholic Charities, provided valuable seed money for the ministry. More recently, a substantial anonymous gift got the fund running at full force. “It means a lot more people can be helped,” says Paula Malloy, director of Parish Social Ministry at CCLI.



PIZZA WITH A PURPOSE



Malloy spoke about a single mom, who sought help from ERF when an injury left her temporarily unable to work a second job requiring physical labor. After depleting her savings, the mom reached out to Catholic Charities and is now back at both jobs. “These are people who fall between the cracks and normally are not able to get help,” explains Malloy, who anticipates that current ERP funding will soon be exhausted. For more information about the Emergency Relief Fund, you can call Catholic Charities’ Central Information and Referral phone line, (516) 733-7045.

The Emergency Relief Fund, in rehousing the homeless and preventing homelessness, aligns with Jesus, who said, “It is more blessed to give than to receive.” Many people, perhaps even you, have temporarily found themselves in a difficult spot. We’re seeking donors who may be able to support ERF on a monthly, quarterly or one-time basis. If you can help, please contact us at Info@CatholicCharities.cc

A MINUTE WITH MIKE



Dear Friend,

In this issue of The Mission, we’re jumping aboard the “We Are There” bandwagon. “We Are There” is a national public awareness campaign, being led by Catholic Charities USA, to promote the good work accomplished by Catholic Charities organizations across the country. Over the next few months, you may come across the campaign in national media outlets. CCLI is also participating with our own social media posts, email blasts and website blogs and announcements. “We Are There” is a fantastic phrase to capture the work we accomplish each day at more than 50 service sites on Long Island. Our staff and volunteers truly are “there” for our neighbors, who benefit from daily programs at our three senior citizen service centers in Nassau County, our 12 homes for developmentally disabled adults spread across the Island, and our two outpatient mental health clinics and addiction treatment services in Suffolk County. The programs just described are a small sampling of the ministries that Catholic Charities of Long Island provides. We really do have a loving heart for seeing Jesus in the people we serve every day. This sentiment is true for directors of our programs/ministries as well as the direct service professionals on the front lines of the more than 1.2 million client visits we host each year. “**We Are There**” is not only our responsibility and mandate from our Lord, it’s a privilege.

Thank you so much for your support in this endeavor, and all our other initiatives. Please pray for us and know of our prayers for you.

In Christ,

Michael E. Smith
Chief Executive Officer
Catholic Charities of Long Island

MOMS FOR BREASTFEEDING AWARENESS

Moms march with their babies and other children in Freeport in August as part of an annual walk supporting Breastfeeding Awareness Month. Catholic Charities of Long Island was recently named one of 10 WIC (Women, Infants and Children) Breastfeeding Award of Excellence winners for New York State. The honor recognizes local WIC programs that provide exemplary breastfeeding promotion, maintain a successful Peer Counselor Program and increase breastfeeding rates among WIC participants. This ministry vividly illustrates the sacredness of every human life and is part of our call as Catholics to be “pro life!”



"The sanctity of human life is the foundation of every other human right." - Bishop John O. Barres

COLLABORATING WITH CYO

Catholic Charities works with many Catholic organizations, and the mutual support benefits both. CCLI enjoys increasing collaboration with CYO Long Island, which engages more than 19,000 youth from Catholic parishes in Nassau and Suffolk counties in sports and other activities. “We’re trying to get everyone involved,” explained CYO executive director Carol Sciotto. “It’s Catholic ministries helping Catholic ministries.”

This year, CYO coaches and coordinators contributed funding for food and a DJ at the St. Valentine’s Dance at Dominican Village in Amityville for residents of Catholic Charities group homes for the developmentally disabled. CYO staff members bought Mother’s Day plants for Meals-on-Wheels recipients and planted flowers at Talbot House, a residential addiction stabilization center, and the Bustamante Residence for developmentally disabled adults. CYO also purchased Bluetooth speakers for our three senior community service centers as well as cases of diapers and wipes for young families. CYO athletes also crafted beautiful cards to share with seniors for Mother’s Day, Easter, Valentine’s Day and other holidays.



"We must speak to them with our hands by giving, before we try to speak to them with our lips." - St. Peter Claver

RESPONDING IN CHARITY

OUR DEEPEST THANKS TO THESE FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS...

Our annual Caritas Dinner in May at The Heritage Club at Bethpage was a huge success. Honorees **Susan and Jim O'Hara** captivated the 230 guests with heartfelt acceptance remarks promoting the caring work they witnessed during their personal tour of Catholic Charities of Long Island service sites. "We saw care, kindness and humanity for all, regardless of ethnicity, religion or situation," Jim explained. "We experienced day to day Christian charity in action. **We are truly humbled to be associated with this organization and their remarkable dedication to Christian charity.**"



The honoree for our **22nd Annual Golf Classic**, on September 30, is a favorite of Long Island sports fans. **Pat LaFontaine** was an outstanding player for New York's three NHL teams—the New York Islanders, the New York Rangers and the Buffalo Sabres—during his Hall of Fame career. He is the president and founder of the **Companions in Courage Foundation**, a nonprofit that builds interactive game rooms in children's hospitals throughout North America.



MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH

May is Mental Health Awareness Month and this year employees of Catholic Charities of Long Island participated in programs at **Molloy University, Notre Dame School** in New Hyde Park, and **Holy Trinity Diocesan High School** to spread awareness to students and talk about the help that is available. The **Holy Trinity Girls Lacrosse team** collaborated with our Mental Health Services staff and dedicated a game to Mental Health Awareness.



LESSONS IN KINDNESS

Third-graders at **Maria Regina School** in Seaford served up refreshing cups of lemonade at their school stand. The idea came after the young entrepreneurs read "The Lemonade War" in class. The delicious proceeds, donated to CCLI, are another sign of the goodness of Catholic schools.



MyCatholicWill

Catholic Charities of Long Island has partnered with My Catholic Will, the only Catholic will-writing tool available. In just 15 minutes, you can write your will for **free**, and update it at any time. This is our gift to you. Secure your legacy of faith and give hope to future generations of Catholics. Visit mycatholicwill.com/cclongisland to get started.



Vehicle Donation

CARS makes donating your car easy. Catholic Charities accepts ANY car, truck, motorcycle or boat as a donation & provides you with convenient pick-up and a tax receipt. Call **(877) 507-GIVE (4483)** or visit careasy.org/nonprofit/catholiccharities for more information.

The Mission
Development and Communications Department,
Catholic Charities of Long Island
(516) 733-7028 | www.catholiccharities.cc

Chief Executive Officer: Michael E. Smith
Editor: Danielle Campbell
Writer This Issue: John Woods
Design & Layout: Emily Nelson

