



SERVING *joyfully*

KELLENBERG CAMPERS SHARE THEIR GIFTS WITH CCLI

The inaugural Service Immersion Camp, a weeklong partnership between Kellenberg Memorial High School and Catholic Charities of Long Island, gave student campers daily experiences learning about and taking part in CCLI ministries. The July 21 to 25 camp began with the 14 campers filling more than 300 backpacks for students in Wyandanch to be distributed through the Outreach Center at Our Lady of Miraculous Medal parish. The next day, at the Marianist retreat house Stella Maris in Islip, campers met teen refugees from CCLI Immigrant Services and played sports, shared a pizza lunch and joined in a bilingual discussion about favorite activities.

Campers later hosted a carnival featuring face-painting and water balloons for the young kids in the WIC (Women, Infants and Children) program in Freeport. At the Wantagh Senior Community Center, campers called Bingo, played ring toss and cornhole and spoke one-to-one with active senior members.

Camp culminated at Kellenberg's campus in Uniondale where students greeted adults and staff from the Christopher Residence in Valley Stream for adults with developmental disabilities. Campers assisted residents in bowling and everyone enjoyed a barbecue lunch. The entire group came together to pray in the beautiful Maria Regina Room at the Firebird Center for Arts and Athletics.

"Spending the week with these amazing young men and women was a gift for me," said Dr. Val Serpe, director of Community Engagement at Kellenberg Memorial. "To see them grow each day in their willingness to reach out to others was inspiring." One camper said she didn't realize "until I started packing backpacks that some children don't have what we take for granted. Next year, I would like to bring items to each of the charities."

The camp is part of a growing collaboration with many Catholic high schools in the diocese, said Patricia Callahan, coordinator of volunteers and interns at CCLI. "We are exposing students to serving others and making them aware of some of our neediest neighbors on Long Island."



AN EVENING AT THE CASTLE

The grandeur of Oheka Castle was a magical setting on August 21 for 50 guests of Catholic Charities of Long Island enjoying a guided tour of the Huntington mansion. After ascending the steps of the grand entrance staircase, two docent-led groups heard fascinating details from Oheka's more than 100-year history; the Castle is the second largest private residence in the United States. The fun summer gathering was an ideal way for supporters to mingle during the tour, which extended over the 22-acre manicured grounds. A cocktail reception with tasty noshes was preceded by a blessing drawn from the Parable of the Sheep and the Goats in Matthew 25: 35-40. **Citing Jesus' words, Msgr. Joseph Staudt prayed, "When I was hungry you gave me food. My friends, at Catholic Charities, people who are not only physically hungry, but they hunger for love. My sisters and brothers at Charities - they reach out to them, they feed them, because they pay attention to them..."** Brief remarks were also shared by William Ayers, the new chair of CCLI's board of trustees; Michael Smith, executive director and CEO; and Danielle Campbell, director of communications and development, who organized the first-time event.



Many Share in Our Caring Service

One of the best things about articles featured in The Mission is that they offer "a show and tell" of our life-affirming service ministries at Catholic Charities of Long Island.

We're very proud of our new initiative with Kellenberg Memorial High School, a Service Immersion Camp, featured on the cover. Fourteen student campers gave a full week of daily service to our clients at five locations across Long Island this summer.

Service is part of our Baptismal call. The campers now understand more fully the rhythm of service we as Catholics are called to live. Learning this at a young age prepares them for a lifetime of living their Catholic faith in service to the Church and Jesus.

Service is also very evident in the story about a day at Fagan Residence, our largest group residence for adults with developmental disabilities. Dedicated employees work around the clock, tending to needs and improving outlooks. Residents serve in many ways, at their daily volunteer assignments in the community and by completing their chore assignments at home.

Our staff and volunteers often tell us how rewarding their positions are. Of course, we all know how God multiplies our gifts. Please give whatever you can, and we'll make sure your gift goes very far.

Faithfully yours in Christ,

Michael E. Smith

Chief Executive Officer

Catholic Charities of Long Island

DAYS AT FAGAN HOME FILLED WITH *Community Life*



It is mid-afternoon on a warm day in July and Msgr. R. Emmet Fagan Residence in Elmont is springing to life. Residents returning from their weekday volunteer assignments in the community are happy to be back at the Catholic Charities of Long Island-run home for adults with developmental disabilities.

On that day, 13 residents - seven women and six men - were present. A 14th resident was scheduled to arrive later in the week, putting Fagan at capacity for the sprawling house, where each resident has their own room. Some are seated in pairs or small groups in the comfortable living room where one longtime resident works on a colorful drawing in her book. Another quickly draws a freehand sketch and points out her artwork on a wall display. The ministry at Fagan is a vivid reminder of Jesus' mandate to his disciples to take care of one another, and to serve those in need who come into our lives, much like the Parable of the Good Samaritan.

As dinnertime nears, many have assigned chores, helpfully completing kitchen tasks such as setting the table, filling water glasses and emptying the dishwasher. Others assist in the laundry room. Dinner is served community-style, with everyone sitting together at a long table. Victor Agatep, the residence manager, inquires about the day. He's worked at the residence since 1998, and was assistant manager before becoming manager. He felt at home at Fagan from the start. "I'm happy when they're happy."

There is a veteran staff, more than half of whom have been on the job for more than five years. A nursing staff, including a nurse manager, offers care, and a medical counselor, who tracks all appointments. Direct Service Professionals work closely with residents.

Residents are picked up in the morning, beginning about 7:30. They volunteer at Meals on Wheels, thrift stores, and doing food shopping and deliveries for seniors. One resident has a paid job. Each receives an allowance so they can make purchases. They like to buy lunches on Friday, the day after "payday."

Many enjoy music, including one who plays keyboard, and they enjoy attending dances and other celebrations. Weekly Bingo is another high point. On Sundays, the group attends Mass at nearby St. Boniface Church.

Catholic Charities operates 12 residences serving more than 100 individuals with developmental disabilities in communities throughout Long Island. Our person-centered philosophy supports and encourages each individual to be as independent as possible while becoming active community members. Lori Savin is director of CCLI's Office for Persons with Developmental Disabilities. To learn more, please call (631) 665-3434.



RESPONDING IN CHARITY

OUR DEEPEST GRATITUDE TO THESE FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS



GOLF CLASSIC TEES OFF OCTOBER 6

mark your calendars!

If you haven't yet registered for the 23rd annual Catholic Charities of Long Island Golf Classic & Pickleball Tournament, we have some very good news. You can still join us for the all-day sporting event, taking place on Monday, Oct. 6, at the Muttontown Club in East Norwich. If golf is your sport, we have you covered with an 18-hole round on a championship course. There will also be a putting contest, and you can take home a new car from GMC King O'Rourke Automotive Group in Smithtown if you sink a hole in one on the assigned hole. For pickleball fanatics, tournament play follows an instructional program. All proceeds help CCLI continue the work of the Catholic Church in the Diocese of Rockville Centre through the many important Catholic Charities ministries. Sponsorships are also in play. For more information, please visit catholiccharities.cc or call (516) 733-7028.



CARITAS DINNER SHINES

The Caritas Dinner is the largest annual fundraising event for Catholic Charities of Long Island. With a total of \$250,000 raised, the 2025 edition on May 15 was one of our most successful ever. We were overjoyed that Bishop John O. Barres, of the Diocese of Rockville Centre, could be present to offer remarks and deliver the invocation. Our Corporate Honoree, Community Care Rx, represented by Dr. Hossam Maksoud and Irien Moawad, made an extraordinarily generous gift. The festive occasion was hosted with style at the Heritage Club at Bethpage. Receiving the Caritas Award was Sister Christine Sammons, O.P., the longtime Parish Social Ministry coordinator at St. Bernard's Parish in Levittown. Many sisters from her religious congregation, the Sisters of St. Dominic of Amityville, joined the celebration. Also receiving special recognition were Tom and Eileen Alexanderson, for their leadership on the CCLI Board of Trustees, of which Tom is now immediate past Chair.



WILLIAM AYERS BEGINS AS BOARD CHAIR

We are pleased to announce that William Ayers is now serving as the new Chair of the Board of Trustees of Catholic Charities of Long Island. Ayers said, "I look forward to joining with the other members of the board to support the great work of the Catholic Church in the Diocese of Rockville Centre being accomplished each day through the many important ministries of Catholic Charities." He now serves as an Advisor at Sipola Advisory Services LLC, the latest step in a highly distinguished career including senior vice president positions at U.S. Trust, Astoria Bank and Capital One Bank as well as previous vice president roles at J.P. Morgan Chase. His service on the CCLI board dates to 2017. Ayers succeeds Thomas Alexanderson, who served for four years as Board Chair.



Bill Ayers is joined by his wife Kelly at the 2025 Caritas Dinner.

Dear Catholic Charities,

I am the brother of Marion Hoesten who is a resident at Catholic Charities' Hansler Residence in Hampton Bays. On behalf of Marion and her family we are making this donation to Catholic Charities in memory of our sister Patti who has recently passed and was a very special part of Marion's life. We would also like to extend our deep appreciation to Catholic Charities, specifically the incredible staff at the Hansler Residence, for the special love and care they provide to Marion and her wonderful roommates.

Thank you and God bless you,

Tom Hoesten

This letter was received by Catholic Charities of Long Island and is being reprinted with permission.

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JOIN OUR TEAM

GOLDEN VOLUNTEER

Danielle Campbell joins the celebration for Dante Russo, a longtime volunteer at St. Mary of the Isle Outreach soup kitchen and food pantry in Long Beach, marking his 100th birthday in August.

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.



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