Dear Friends:

We at Catholic Charities Brooklyn and Queens continue to be one of the largest multi-service charitable organizations in the nation, restoring hope and providing care and compassionate support to 110,000 individuals per year. This fall, we were able to open the doors of a new senior center and restore two centers which were destroyed in last year’s Super Storm Sandy, we cut the ribbon on a brand-new, energy-efficient, affordable housing complex, helped our community children go back to school and continued to promote healthy living within our services.

In addition to our regular ongoing support of our neighbors in Brooklyn and Queens, we recently passed the one-year mark of Sandy. One year ago, the storm brought much more than rain, wind and flooding, it brought physical damage, loss of life and tremendous destruction to so many families throughout Brooklyn and Queens. From day one, our staff worked tirelessly in response to the crisis, maintaining our involvement in numerous distribution efforts, providing for basic needs, and working directly with those struggling with issues of housing, relocation, employment, insurance, FEMA and so much more.

Although a number of our own buildings were heavily damaged, it did not interrupt our delivery of key services. I am proud that we were able to respond to the overwhelming demand for help, and provide direct assistance to those who needed it the most.

As we head into the second year of the recovery efforts with a renewed sense of hope and pride in our neighborhoods, our staff members will continue to assist those in need. Our Disaster Case Management Program will extend through the coming year with their long-term response efforts providing service to more than 700 families and individuals.

Together with our service programs, volunteers and numerous supporters, we are able to continue making a difference to our neighbors in Brooklyn and Queens. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Robert Siebel
Chief Executive Officer

NEW YORK STATE DISASTER CASE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Hurt by Hurricane Sandy?

Whether you have applied for FEMA or not --- even if you were not eligible or were denied assistance--- there may be local resources available for you. A trained, compassionate case manager can work one-on-one with you to:

- Answer your questions about recovery
- Develop a plan to address your needs
- Connect you with appropriate community resources
- Determine what financial assistance may be available to you
- Advocate on your behalf with service and benefit providers

Catholic Charities Brooklyn and Queens
Disaster Case Management Program
To make an appointment please call (718) 722-6223
E-mail: dcm@ccbq.org

Or call the Catholic Charities Sandy Referral line: 855-258-0483

Call Today – Help is Here.
Located at 2354-2358 and 2372-2374 Atlantic Avenue, and 2353-2365 Pacific Street, Catholic Charities Monsignor Anthony J. Barretta Apartments are comprised of eight separate four-story buildings. The apartment units are split evenly between one-bedroom and two-bedroom apartments. Utilizing CPCR’s highly successful “Infill Housing Prototype” design, the apartments have transformed underutilized, scattered sites into sound housing, a need which is increasingly important in a land-scarce city like New York.

Those who gave remarks at Thursday’s ribbon-cutting were: Monsignor Alfred LoPinto, Vicar for Human Services for the Diocese of Brooklyn on behalf of Catholic Charities Brooklyn and Queens; Most Reverend Nicholas DiMarzio, Bishop of Brooklyn; Deborah Widerkehr, Vice President of CPC Resources, Inc.; Darryl C. Towns, Commissioner and CEO of HCR; RuthAnne Visnauskas, Commissioner of HPD; Richard Bearak, Director of Land Use, Brooklyn Borough President’s Office; William Traylor, President of Richman Housing Resources; David Walsh, Senior Vice President of Community Development Banking at JP Morgan Chase; and Joseph Jennings, a resident of the apartment complex.

Also in attendance were Monsignor Anthony J. Barretta’s sister, Elena Walhert, Catholic Charities Brooklyn and Queens CEO, Robert Siebel and Catholic Charities Brooklyn and Queens Deputy Executive Director, Sister Ellen Patricia Finn, OP.

Amenities include a community room with a kitchen for use by residents, and laundry facilities. All units are air conditioned.

Catholic Charities Brooklyn and Queens hosted the 2013 Bishop Joseph M. Sullivan Memorial Golf Classic, at Sands Point Golf Club in Sands Point, N.Y. on Monday, Sept. 30. The most successful Catholic Charities Golf Classic to date, the event raised more than $170,000 to benefit the 160-plus programs and services provided by CCBQ.

Attended by many executives from the New York Metropolitan area, this year’s Golf Classic was chaired by: Peter Striano of Unity International Group; Bruce Arella of WE Family Offices; John J. Farrell of JP Morgan Chase; Joseph Saggese; Robert Siebel, CEO of Catholic Charities Brooklyn and Queens; Charles F. Murphy of Turner Construction Company; and Darrell W. Upson of Ameriprise Financial Service. Amy Freeze, weekend Meteorologist for WABC-TV’s popular Eyewitness News, served as the Master of Ceremonies.

The format for this sold-out event was a shotgun start with course play that included a $10,000 Hole-in-One, Closest-to-the-Pin contests on all Par 3’s and a Longest Drive Contest for both the male and female golfers. The day featured a breakfast buffet, a cocktail reception and dinner, a silent auction, a 50/50 raffle, prizes and an awards presentation.

In the coming years, the event will continue to memorialize Bishop Joseph M. Sullivan, who was part of the Catholic Charities family for more than 50 years, providing vision, leadership and unwavering support.

On Thursday, Sept. 26, in a mid-morning ribbon-cutting ceremony, Catholic Charities Brooklyn and Queens, along with the New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD), the New York State Homes and Community Renewal (HCR), the Community Preservation Corporation (CPC) and CPC Resources, officially opened the Catholic Charities Monsignor Anthony J. Barretta Apartments in Ocean Hill, Brooklyn.

The $18 million, 64-unit, facility was developed as a partnership between CPCR and CCBQ and is located on the site of the former school, rectory, and convent of Our Lady of Loreto Church. The apartments were developed under Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg’s New Housing Marketplace Plan (NHMP), a multi-billion dollar initiative to finance 165,000 units of affordable housing for half a million New Yorkers by 2014.

Catholic Charities Brooklyn and Queens will continue to memorialize Bishop Joseph M. Sullivan, who was part of the Catholic Charities family for more than 50 years, providing vision, leadership and unwavering support.
On Oct. 29, 2012, the devastating wind, rain and storm surges of Super Storm Sandy slammed into New York City and the Long Island coast, leaving death and destruction in its wake.

In advance of the storm, dedicated staff members at Catholic Charities Brooklyn and Queens worked long hours to prepare facilities and clients, including a two-day supply of meals for the homebound and our 24-hour residences. Once Sandy made landfall, our outreach workers immediately mobilized for an emergency response and worked double and triple shifts to ensure the well-being of those we serve.

We received daily messages asking for assistance. Vital recovery information was posted on our website, CCBQ.org, our social media sites and via e-mail to donors and community members. Within a few short months, friends from throughout the country had donated more than $1.9 million in support of the work of CCBQ.

**Immediate Response And Help**

Catholic Charities Brooklyn and Queens staff members were assisted by more than 1,250 dedicated volunteers, who provided an astonishing 35,000 hours of service in the weeks following the storm. CCBQ supported recovery sites that were immediately established in collaboration with parishes and other community groups at St. Francis de Sales in Belle Harbor, Our Lady of Solace in Coney Island, St. Helen’s Church in Howard Beach, Blessed Virgin Mary of the Visitation in Red Hook, and St. Mary Star of the Sea in Far Rockaway.

These facilities served as central points for service delivery, offering food, water and clothing distribution. Additionally, staff and volunteers were able to address residents’ social service needs and assist them with navigating government funding systems, such as FEMA, HRA, emergency Food Stamps and disaster unemployment.

Parishes throughout the Diocese collected non-perishable food items and supplies for the relief efforts, and also took up a second collection to assist those in distress, with the funds administered through Catholic Charities Brooklyn and Queens.

CCBQ also continued to work in partnership with local community organizations to coordinate clean-up and volunteers. The I Am Waters foundation donated a tractor-trailer full of 38,000 bottles of water, and through Catholic Charities USA (CCUSA), we received a shipment of 480 boxes of food (each box feeding a family of four for one week), along with cleaning supplies.

The City of New York quickly opened Restoration Centers, which were special sites that housed, both, FEMA and city services directed at Sandy survivors. The city turned to Catholic Charities Brooklyn and Queens to help provide case management services at their locations in Gravesend, Coney Island, and Breezy Point.
Under the leadership of Bishop Nicholas DiMarzio, Ph.D., D.D., and through the generous contributions of the parishioners of the Diocese of Brooklyn, the Board of Trustees of Catholic Charities Brooklyn and Queens and the St. Vincent DePaul Society, a $2 million Sandy Relief and Recovery Fund was created and CCBQ assisted in the distribution of funds through 16 parishes affected by the storm.

Additionally, Catholic Charities Brooklyn and Queens received funding for a 22-month disaster case management program to create long-term assistance. The CCBQ Disaster Case Management Program, funded by the New York State Office of Emergency Management and in partnership with Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of New York, added 17 case managers and two supervisors to work with families and individuals who continue to negotiate issues resulting from Sandy’s impact, including FEMA, filing insurance claims, employment, mold remediation and housing. To date, more than 700 families have been served through this program. The CCBQ Disaster Case Management team continues to work at 10 sites, half of which are parishes, in areas most impacted by Sandy.

In early-October 2013, nearly one year after Super Storm Sandy, Catholic Charities was awarded a $1.8 million government grant to support our Disaster Case Management Program for another year. CCBQ was one of just 21 programs who was recognized with a significant Sandy Social Service Block Grant Award. For a complete listing of the grants, visit the New York Non-Profit Press website.

Working with our Disaster Case Management program, CCBQ also serves as a provider agency for Project HOPE, which is funded by the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. Through Project HOPE, a team of nine counselors from CCBQ continue to work with those suffering emotional problems due to the storm with a reach of more than 5,800 residents. Nearly 1,900 people have participated in Project HOPE educational presentations, and more than 910 individual counseling sessions have been provided through the program.

Help From Unexpected Places;
A look into the Disaster Case Management Program

One of the clients helped by the DCM Program is Joseph Duodu, a teacher from Averne, N.Y., whose family’s home was flooded and destroyed during Sandy. Joseph and his family rode out the storm in a motel, but when he returned to his home in Averne, he found it unlivable after it was flooded with four to five feet of water. Joseph was referred to Catholic Charities Brooklyn and Queens for help. From the referral, a Disaster Case Manager was assigned to Joseph and his family, and helped them rebuild mentally and physically during their five-month stay in a motel. Joseph was able to get grants from CCBQ for a Target Gift Card to replace destroyed personal items and additional funding for replacement furniture. Joseph and his family are happy to be back in their home, but they continue to rebuild and work with their DCM case manager.

When Sandy hit, Jennifer Phantom, who is disabled and requires a wheelchair, evacuated with her daughter from her home in Far Rockaway, where she lived for 15 years. Jennifer returned to her home to find that water from Jamaica Bay had broken through the seawall and completely destroyed the entire first floor, including all of her possessions and medical equipment, her yard, and the foundation of her home. The estimated cost of repair for the damage for Jennifer was approximately $80,000. Along with FEMA assistance for temporary housing, CCBQ has been there to help. Her CCBQ Disaster Case Manager helped connect her with valuable resources to help get her back on her feet. Additionally, since mobility is a problem for Jennifer, CCBQ helped replace the washer and dryer that were lost in the storm.

The Long-Term Response

Under the leadership of Bishop Nicholas DiMarzio, Ph.D., D.D., and through the generous contributions of the parishioners of the Diocese of Brooklyn, the Board of Trustees of Catholic Charities Brooklyn and Queens and the St. Vincent DePaul Society, a $2 million Sandy Relief and Recovery Fund was created and CCBQ assisted in the distribution of funds through 16 parishes affected by the storm.
As children returned to school this September, Catholic Charities Brooklyn and Queens hosted a free community event at the Catholic Charities Our Lady of Angels Human Service Center in Bay Ridge, Brooklyn. Hundreds of parents and children participated in this exciting day while receiving important information on safety, health and voter registration. Children received free school supplies, some of which were donated by the offices of New York State Senator Martin J. Golden, New York City Councilman Vincent J. Gentile, Fidelis Care New York and numerous community partners. The day included a magic show by Brooklyn Cyclones Magician “King Henry” as well as face painting, arts and crafts, and many other fun and educational activities for children to enjoy.

Catholic Charities Teams Up with St. John’s University Students for Annual University Service Day

Volunteers from St. John’s University dedicated their 12th Annual University Service Day to assisting various CCBQ programs. At the first location, 20 students helped out at the Catholic Charities Monica House in Queens, a Community Residence/Single Room Occupancy (CR/SRO) transitional living residence. The students removed old wallpaper and painted the cafeteria for the residents to enjoy a brighter place to eat. They also painted the walls around the courtyard where the tenants socialize and enjoy the outdoors.

Other students volunteered at the Catholic Charities Flatbush Addiction Treatment Center in Brooklyn where they gave a stairwell a much-needed paint job and constructed a useful bulletin board.

Volunteers also took their services to the Catholic Charities Bayside Senior Center in Queens and the Sheepshead-Nostrand Supportive Services Program NORC in Brooklyn to build beautiful gardens for the members. Our neighbors are grateful for the continued support of St. John’s University students and are looking forward to enjoying the renovated spaces!
As the Super Storm Sandy pounded the city, Catholic Charities Brooklyn and Queens suffered damage to a number of buildings. The Catholic Charities Seaside Senior Center in the Rockaways was destroyed; the Strauss Residence for developmentally disabled adults in Sheepshead Bay was flooded and residents were relocated to another facility; and the Madeleine Jones Early Childhood Development Center in Coney Island suffered major flooding.

Catholic Charities continues to work tirelessly to restore these centers. On Sept. 30, hope was restored to the older adult community in the Rockaways as the Seaside Senior Center re-opened its doors after nearly 11 months. With the help of NYC Councilman Eric Ulrich, the center moved to a new location on Beach 94th Street at the First Congregational Church Meeting Hall.

“It feels fantastic to re-open our Seaside Senior Center because many of these seniors were victims of Sandy and this is like a homecoming for them,” remarked Judith Kleve, Catholic Charities Brooklyn and Queens Vice President for Older Adult Services. “It is wonderful for them to come back, to see all their friends, because this really has been like a second home. The first day we re-opened was such a joyous occasion, as they were hugging and greeting each other. This is a great way to continue the ‘re-birth’ of the Rockaways.”

Plans are in place to re-open and refurbish other Catholic Charities facilities, including the Howard Beach Senior Center and many others.

Queens Community Center Promotes Healthy Eating, Visits Astoria Greenmarket

In keeping with the Catholic Charities Brooklyn and Queens’ goal of promoting healthy lifestyles, a group of Catholic Charities Queens Community Center visitors participated in a walk to the local Greenmarket in Astoria on Sept. 18. Each of the participants were given “Health Bucks” to spend at the market from the NYC Department of Health. The local farmers offered the participants suggestions on how to cook using the fresh produce, while offering tasty samples. Cooking tips were also provided on how to dry and preserve fresh herbs. Healthy eating can prevent illnesses such as obesity, diabetes, heart disease, cancer and high blood pressure. Fruits and vegetables are high in fiber, vitamins and minerals, and low in fat, calories and sodium.

Greenmarket, a program of GrowNYC, is a marketplace where local farmers, fishermen and bakers sell what they grow, raise, catch and bake themselves without the assistance of a middleman or broker. The NYC farmer’s markets also accept food stamps (Electronic Benefit Cards/EBT), and a $2 “Health Buck” coupon is given to each customer for every $5 spent using their food stamps.

Note of Gratitude

“I just wanted to send a note about my case manager Miss Elaine Scott. If there were more people like her, the world would be a far better place. She is kind, understanding, non-judgmental and one of the most supportive individuals I have ever met. I still have a way to go in getting my life completely on track, but Miss Scott has shown me through your organization that there truly are people who care and would go the extra mile on behalf of those less fortunate. She a great lady and wonderful human being. Her ability to see beyond your problems and see the person you can be has given me a new outlook on my life. Thank you for having her as part of Catholic Charities.”

~ Sharon Jenkins
Every year, Catholic Charities Brooklyn and Queens hosts both the Bishop’s Testimonial Reception in Brooklyn in November and the Bishop’s Humanitarian Award Dinner in Manhattan in June.

This year, after intensively analyzing both events in an effort to ensure that we are best utilizing staff and donor resources, we have made the decision to focus our efforts and only host one major dinner each year – the Bishop’s Humanitarian Award Dinner, which will be held on June 4, 2014 at Pier Sixty at Chelsea Piers.

If you have any questions regarding this change, please contact Martin Haggerty in the Office of Development and Communications at 718-722-6099 or email events@ccbq.org.

Thank you again for your continued support.