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Rev. Msgr. Alfred P. LoPinto

Dear Friends of Catholic Charities,

Greetings and blessings in this special time of the year as family and friends gather to celebrate God’s light entering the world and share wishes for better times in 2016.

In this issue of Hopeworks, Catholic Charities shares stories of how working together – staff and volunteers, government, and the private sector – we are generating hope in the lives of individuals and families. At the recently dedicated Bishop Sullivan Residence, formerly homeless veterans are moving into newly created studio apartments, and all the residents have access to new community space for more opportunities to gather and celebrate. In Coney Island, ground was broken for the Charles F. Murphy Early Childhood Center, a facility that will provide early childhood education and give parents assurance that all is being done to give their children a chance at a better future. Thanksgiving saw staff and volunteers provide dinner to many seniors and also provide turkeys and other food items to families so they could enjoy a bleft Thanksgiving dinner.

Each of these activities and events concretely touch the lives of individuals and families, generating hope and delivering the message of love. Each activity and event concretizes God’s love and manifests the care of our donors and volunteers for our struggling sisters and brothers throughout Brooklyn and Queens.

Please join me in praying that 2016 will bring peace to our world, health and happiness to all, and resolution to the pain caused by poverty which afflicts too many in our community, city, nation and world.

Sincerely,

Alfred LoPinto

Rev. Msgr. Alfred P. LoPinto
Chief Executive Officer

CEO Msgr. Alfred LoPinto Honored at the Queensboro Council of Social Welfare 93rd Annual Luncheon

In October 2015, the Queensboro Council for Social Welfare held its 93rd Annual Awards Luncheon & Networking Exhibition at Terrace on the Park in Flushing Meadows Park, Queens. This year, Monsignor Alfred LoPinto, CEO of Catholic Charities Brooklyn and Queens and Vicar for Human Services of the Diocese of Brooklyn, received the 14th Annual Claire Shulman Award for leadership in human services. The Board of Trustees, Administration and staff of Catholic Charities join in congratulating him, and several administrators and program managers were in attendance to help celebrate this honor.

The New York Times Neediest Cases Campaign 2015 - 2016 Kick Off

For more than 100 years, The New York Times Neediest Cases Fund has provided direct assistance to children, families and the elderly in New York. The Neediest Cases Fund marks its 104th year with its 2015-16 campaign, which runs from Nov. 2, 2015 through Jan. 22, 2016. The Times profiles illustrate the difference that even a modest amount of money can make in easing the struggles of the poor. To read stories of individuals and families helped by Catholic Charities Brooklyn and Queens through the Neediest Cases Fund, visit www.ccbq.org/new-york-times-neediest-cases
Years after Hurricane Sandy, Groundbreaking Ceremony Held for the Charles F. Murphy Early Childhood Development Center

As Coney Island continues to rebuild after Hurricane Sandy, construction for the future Catholic Charities Charles F. Murphy Early Childhood Development Center in Coney Island, Brooklyn, has begun. An important symbol of the neighborhood’s resiliency, the center will provide high-quality early childhood services to low-income households with children ages 3 to 5 years old. The new facility (rendering pictured below left) will feature a 17,000 sf, 3-story steel-reinforced building with a defensible ground level to protect against future flooding. The ground level will contain a kitchen, a multi-purpose room, and various administrative and utility spaces. The second and third floors will feature 5 classrooms and miscellaneous office areas. There will be outdoor play space on the roofs of the first and second floors with direct access from classrooms. Construction of the new center will be completed in the spring of 2017.

The facility is named after board member Charles F. Murphy, Senior Vice President and General Manager of New York Operations for Turner Construction Company. He is responsible for overall leadership and management of all business activities of the New York office and has been responsible for some of the largest construction projects in New York City, including Yankee Stadium, NYU’s Langone Medical Center and 2 World Trade Center.

Funded primarily through Hurricane Sandy Relief grant funds provided by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Administration for Children and Families (ACF), and Office of Head Start (OHS).

TD Bank Awards Affordable Housing Grant to Catholic Charities Progress of People’s Development

Catholic Charities Progress of People’s Development Corporation, the housing affiliate of Catholic Charities Brooklyn and Queens, was recently awarded a $100,000 affordable housing grant through the TD Charitable Foundation’s Housing for Everyone grant competition. The grant will help fund the construction of the Catholic Charities Catherine Sheridan II Senior Residence in Astoria, Queens.

The Catholic Charities Catherine Sheridan II, an affordable housing complex for low-income seniors, will expand the services offered at the Catholic Charities Catherine Sheridan Senior Residence in Astoria, Queens, with approximately 90 units of affordable senior housing and a senior center on the ground floor. The new development will have studios and one-bedroom apartments that are affordable to residents with incomes up to 60% of the Area Median Income (AMI). The senior center will be approximately 10,000 SF and provide congregate meals, a library, a computer center and other spaces for the greater senior community. This project is still in the planning stages, with a groundbreaking expected in late 2016.
Responding to the veteran homelessness crisis, Catholic Charities Brooklyn and Queens and New York State Homes and Community Renewal (HCR), joined by Richman Housing Resources, celebrated the opening of the Catholic Charities Bishop Joseph M. Sullivan Residence in Brooklyn. HCR financed the $21.7 million substantial renovation of the complex, allowing Catholic Charities to preserve 76 apartments for the formerly homeless and create 22 new apartments designated specifically for formerly homeless veterans.

“With so many homeless on the streets — including men and women who have bravely served our country — it is critical to provide stable affordable homes,” said Msgr. LoPinto. “The need for affordable housing in New York City is overwhelming, and this newly renovated and expanded residence provides the formerly homeless with the highest quality housing and services in their own neighborhood. We are thrilled that many of these individuals now have a special place to call “home.”

According to the City Department of Homeless Services (DHS), there are currently 1,000 homeless veterans in New York City; of those, 712 are in DHS shelters, 264 are in federal VA-funded housing, and 29 are living on the streets.

“Under Governor Cuomo’s leadership we are committed to helping troubled veterans get back on their feet and find safe haven,” said NYS Homes and Community Renewal Commissioner James S. Rubin. “It’s significant, of course, that we are dedicating this renovated building with these 22 additional units the day before Veterans’ Day — but this should be clear — this is a 24/7 365-day-a-year mission. After sacrificing so much to serve our nation and to secure our liberties, we must do everything we can to help these courageous men and women find safe affordable housing. It is our duty to offer those who are homeless respite from the vagaries and violence of the streets.”

“The completion of this project is the culmination of the hard work, dedication and commitment of many people. Yet, it all started with Bishop Joseph M. Sullivan responding to the call to serve those most in need,” said Karim Camara, Executive Director, New York State Faith Based Community Development Services. “The state’s partnership in this project is a testament to Governor Cuomo’s vision and to the significance of his Opportunity Agenda, which is bringing benefits to every sector of our economy. It also clearly demonstrates Commissioner Rubin’s vision and commitment to build homes and communities for those who need it the most. There is no group of people more deserving than the men and women who have made great sacrifices to serve our country.”

“The preservation of affordable housing is one of our goals and the Bishop Joseph M. Sullivan Residence is a
great example of what can be done through HUD’s Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD), that leverages public and private investment and reinvests in housing stock, keeping it permanently affordable,” said Mirza Orriols, HUD Region II Deputy Regional Administrator. “RAD and HUD-VASH housing vouchers help us reach the goal set by the Mayor’s Challenge, a White House initiative that aims to end veteran homelessness by the end of this year.”

Financing of this renovation was made possible through extensive partnerships among New York State Homes and Community Renewal, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Richman Housing Resources, and Wells Fargo Bank, N.A., Catholic Charities also worked with the U.S. Department of Veteran’s Affairs and the Mayor’s Office of Veteran’s Affairs and New York City Department of Homeless Services and the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene for the placement of veterans in the new apartments.

“The Bishop Joseph Sullivan Residence is an outstanding example of what can and should be done for our homeless neighbors... provide them with an affordable place to live that restores their dignity as citizens and enables them to participate fully within the community,” said Bill Traylor, President of Richman Housing Resources LLC, which helped structure and secure the financing for the rehabilitation. “I congratulate Catholic Charities for its vision and commitment of service among the poor, and I applaud all the partners, the City and State as well as Wells Fargo, for stepping up to the plate to make the Bishop Sullivan Residence happen,” continued Mr. Traylor.

“We appreciate that Catholic Charities has partnered with our homeless program in New York City to create a wonderful housing opportunity for our soon to be formerly homeless veterans,” said Karen Fuller, Director of Homeless Programs, New York Harbor Healthcare Systems. “We appreciate the collaboration to provide the best possible community and support services for these veterans.”

“The Bishop Joseph M. Sullivan Residence, Brooklyn is the start of a new life for 98 formerly homeless individuals and veterans. Creating high-quality affordable homes for New Yorkers has been MDG Design + Construction’s mission since 1988, and we are honored to have helped our long-time partner Catholic Charities Brooklyn and Queens to renovate and create this beautiful new home,” noted Michael T. Rooney, Sr., Founding Principal of MDG Design + Construction.

Located at 800 Madison Street in the Bedford Stuyvesant area of Brooklyn, the Catholic Charities Bishop Joseph M. Sullivan Residence was previously known as Our Lady of Good Counsel. It was originally three separate structures – an all-boys school, an all-girls school, and a rectory – run by the teaching communities of the Franciscan Brothers of Brooklyn and the Sisters of St. Joseph, and was purchased in the mid 1980s. Through Bishop Sullivan’s vision and leadership, the property was later converted to supportive housing for formerly homeless adults and was recently renovated to add 22 new apartments. The lobby space was also renovated, along with new common areas and meeting rooms for the building’s 98 residents. The renovations and new additions reflect a philosophy that encourages individual self-sufficiency within the context of a supportive community.

The residence was renamed in honor of Bishop Sullivan, who had been a proud member of the Catholic Charities family for over fifty years. His lifelong passion for social justice and affordable housing has resonated with a number of New York residents and with the help of Catholic Charities his spirit and mission will continue to live on.

Catholic Charities Brooklyn and Queens is one of the largest faith-based providers of affordable housing for low-income individuals, seniors, families and special needs populations in New York City, having developed over 3,500 units of affordable housing throughout Brooklyn and Queens.
#WalkwithFrancis
Catholic Charities Joined in Welcoming Pope Francis

In conjunction with Pope Francis’s visit to the United States, our #WalkwithFrancis in Williamsburg campaign was an effort to gather the community to follow the Pope’s example to PRAY, SERVE or ACT.

Pledge to #WalkwithFrancis

PRAY
Pray regularly for the Holy Father and learn about his message on the Joy of the Gospel, the mercy of God and the love of Christ

SERVE
Serve by reaching out and caring for those in need and supporting charitable efforts in our communities and beyond

ACT
Act to promote human life and dignity, justice and peace, family life and religious freedom. Care for creation and the common good

In particular, our #WalkwithFrancis in Williamsburg campaign asked the community to make a pledge to feed the hungry and to participate in a walk to bring awareness to this cause.

The walk began at San Damiano Mission in Williamsburg, Brooklyn (formerly Holy Family Church) and ended at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church. Nearly 100 people from the community attended the walk. The #WalkwithFrancis in Williamsburg pledge also invited the community to donate food at a local parish and to volunteer for the food pantry collection.

To greet the Pope upon his arrival to NYC’s JFK Airport on September 25th, CCBQ was there along with five formerly homeless individuals who are now tenants of one of our affordable housing apartments.
CCBQ Staff, NYPD Emerald Society, FDNY and Volunteers Help with Thanksgiving

With the help of volunteers and staff members, Catholic Charities Brooklyn and Queens distributed nearly 600 Thanksgiving meals to families and individuals in need. Distribution began the week before Thanksgiving at the community centers in Downtown Brooklyn and Astoria, Queens.

Hook, Brooklyn. The additional 50 turkeys were donated by the Knights of Columbus of the Immaculate Conception parish in Astoria. The Frederick Foundation donated 260 turkeys to 15 parishes who benefit from the St. Vincent de Paul Society.

Some families were also given turkey dinner fixings, provided by the Catholic Charities Food Pantry Network, which included fresh potatoes, squash and corn, instant stuffing, gravy, corn and corn muffin mix. CCBQ operates a network of 20 food pantries in Brooklyn and Queens providing food assistance to many families and individuals in need.

Staff and volunteers of all ages also spent time on Thanksgiving Day at several of our programs, like the NORC (Naturally Occurring Retirement Community) Program and the Glenwood Senior Center in Brooklyn, serving meals and sharing with seniors and families.

Visit www.ccbq.org to see the NET TV news coverage “Catholic Charities Helps with Thanksgiving.”
GAMA Includes Grandfathers as Fathers Again

Grandmothers As Mothers Again (GAMA) is a support group for grandmothers who are helping care for their grandchild. Participants meet monthly at our Brooklyn Hub and have recently ventured out to the Brooklyn Borough Hall Greenmarket where they were able to purchase a variety of fresh fruits and vegetables with Health Bucks that were given out during a previous group meeting. The support group has been a success thus far, and members have expressed how helpful and informative the group has been for them. Even grandfathers are beginning to join the group!

Dads Take Their Children to School

This fall, fathers in our Man Up Fatherhood Program took part in the “Dads Take Your Child to School” initiative, designed to encourage fathers of school-aged children from Head Start to High School to connect with school administrators and teachers to develop an educational plan and a united approach to their children’s education. Thousands of fathers and their families at more than 650 schools across New York State participated.

Our Man Up Fatherhood Program helps young fathers (aged 16-24) strengthen their parental bond with their children by developing parenting skills needed to be socially, emotionally and financially involved in the lives of their children. Participants of our program had also brought their children to the zoo, as pictured left.

Soccer for Success: New Soccer Program at OST- PS 50

In an effort to encourage young people to embrace a healthier lifestyle, Catholic Charities and the NYC Department of Youth and Childhood Development OST Afterschool Program at P.S. 50 (DYCD OST – P.S. 50) recently developed the Soccer for Success program, a soccer-based sports program that allows children in low-income urban communities to learn and practice the basic fundamentals of living a healthier and active lifestyle.

Launched through the Soccer for Success – U.S. Soccer Foundation, this 24 week program provides participants the necessary gear, including a jersey, shin guards and socks, all of which were sponsored by Nike. In addition, participants receive their own Soccer for Success soccer ball.
SJU Volunteers Help at CCBQ Sites

Catholic Charities Brooklyn and Queens (CCBQ) was once again chosen as one of the sites for St. John’s University’s Day of Service. Eight students came to our Bayside Senior Center to help beautify the garden surrounding the center. Five students volunteered at the St. Leonard’s Family Housing in Brooklyn where they gave the surrounding fence a much-needed paint job.

Now in its 14th year, St. John’s University Service Day is held on the feast of St. Vincent de Paul, whose compassion and zeal for service continues to inspire so many to work towards social justice and the reduction of poverty. The day serves as the culmination of St. John’s University Founder’s Week, a week of events and programs dedicated to deepening our knowledge and understanding of Vincentian heritage. Not only do students volunteer, but also alumni, friends of the university, faculty, staff and administrators from all of St. John’s campuses.

We are so grateful for the continued support of St. John’s University.
Youth Paint Lovely Mural: Youth Immigrant Voice

Students in our High School Equivalency classes recently gathered for a Youth Immigrant Voice event at the Catholic Charities Outreach and Integration Services location in Astoria, Queens. At the event, the students unveiled a gorgeous mural that reflects the titled theme. The mural was created by the students under the direction and supervision of the art teacher.

Pop Culture Summit “iconic32” Attended by Youth

Our OST Afterschool Program participated in the iconic32 Pop Culture Summit – a first-of-its-kind gathering where pop culture stars come together to raise money, share knowledge, and co-create for social good. The event was hosted by iconic32’s co-founder and Empire actor Malik Yoba at John Jay College in Manhattan. The students also met rapper Fat Joe. The students enjoyed workshops where they were able to create their own music and art. One of the students chose to participate in a dance workshop and was able to perform a short dance routine on stage with a live band. At the end of the day, the students received gift bags with designer Beats headphones donated by rapper/music producer Dr. Dre, healthy treats donated by KIND, and gloves.

NYCares Winter Wishes

Catholic Charities programs began their Christmas holiday festivities early this year by writing letters to Santa via New York Cares Winter Wish. Our agency has participated for several years in this program and the children always receive wonderful gifts. Thank you to New York Cares for their continued support!
Catholic Charities Brooklyn and Queens recently hosted the first Evening of Jazz & Cocktails at Russo’s On The Bay in Queens. Attendees enjoyed live jazz music, food, wine and cocktails as well as participating in the Wine Grab and Wine Toss. All proceeds will benefit children and families in need during the holidays. We thank all our sponsors, with a special thanks to our underwriters: Broadway Stages; Mr. & Mrs. Alphonse Catanese; Dattner Architects; Hudson Housing Capital; MDG Design and Construction; and Sandata Technologies.
Travel arrangements by

Peter’s Way Tours

9-Day Pilgrimage
to Majestic Italy
Featuring Mass with Pope Francis
March 30 - April 7, 2016

Join Catholic Charities Brooklyn and Queens on a 9-day pilgrimage to Majestic Italy during the Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy! Led by Bishop Paul Sanchez, Spiritual Director, and Rev. Msgr. Al LoPinto, Coordinator, this pilgrimage features Mass with Pope Francis on the Feast of Divine Mercy.

For more information, including itinerary and enrollment form, please contact Peter’s Way Tours at 800-225-7662 or 516-605-1551.

Ticket and Sponsorship Information:
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