

# CARITAS NOW

CATHOLIC CHARITIES BROOKLYN AND QUEENS MAGAZINE | THE FOOD ISSUE

**HARVESTING  
GRATITUDE:  
THANKSGIVING TURKEY  
DISTRIBUTION IN ACTION**

**FOOD PROGRAM FOR  
RESIDENTS LIVING WITH HIV**

**AND MORE**

# Nourishing Hope

CATHOLIC CHARITIES BROOKLYN AND QUEENS TACKLES HUNGER IN NYC



**CATHOLIC  
CHARITIES**  
Brooklyn &  
Queens  
ESTABLISHED 1899



# LETTER FROM THE CEO

Dear Friends,

I trust this message finds you well. As the President and CEO of Catholic Charities Brooklyn and Queens, it is my privilege to address you in the forthcoming issue of *Caritas Now* magazine, which is dedicated to our food programs for those we serve.

In these challenging times, the issue of food insecurity has become more critical than ever. It is a harsh reality that many of our neighbors, even as inflation is settling, continue to struggle to put food on their tables. At Catholic Charities Brooklyn and Queens, we firmly believe that, like housing, access to nutritious food is not a privilege, but a basic human right.

Our mission, deeply rooted in the teachings of Jesus Christ and the Church, is to provide compassionate and comprehensive social services to all, particularly the most vulnerable among us. Our food programs, including food pantries, pop-up food pantries, and meals for the homebound, are a vital part of this mission. We strive to ensure that no one in our community goes hungry.

In addition to our food programs, we also provide services for asylum seekers and those living with HIV. We believe in serving all members of our community and helping them live with dignity and respect.

In this issue of *Caritas Now*, you will read inspiring pieces of resilience and hope, of programs and services that provide to individuals and families who, despite their circumstances, continue to persevere. You will also learn about the tireless efforts of our staff and volunteers who work relentlessly to make these programs possible.

However, none of this would be possible without your generous support. Your donations not only provide immediate relief to those in need but also give them hope for a better future. Together, we can make a difference, alleviate hunger and provide essential services to those in need.

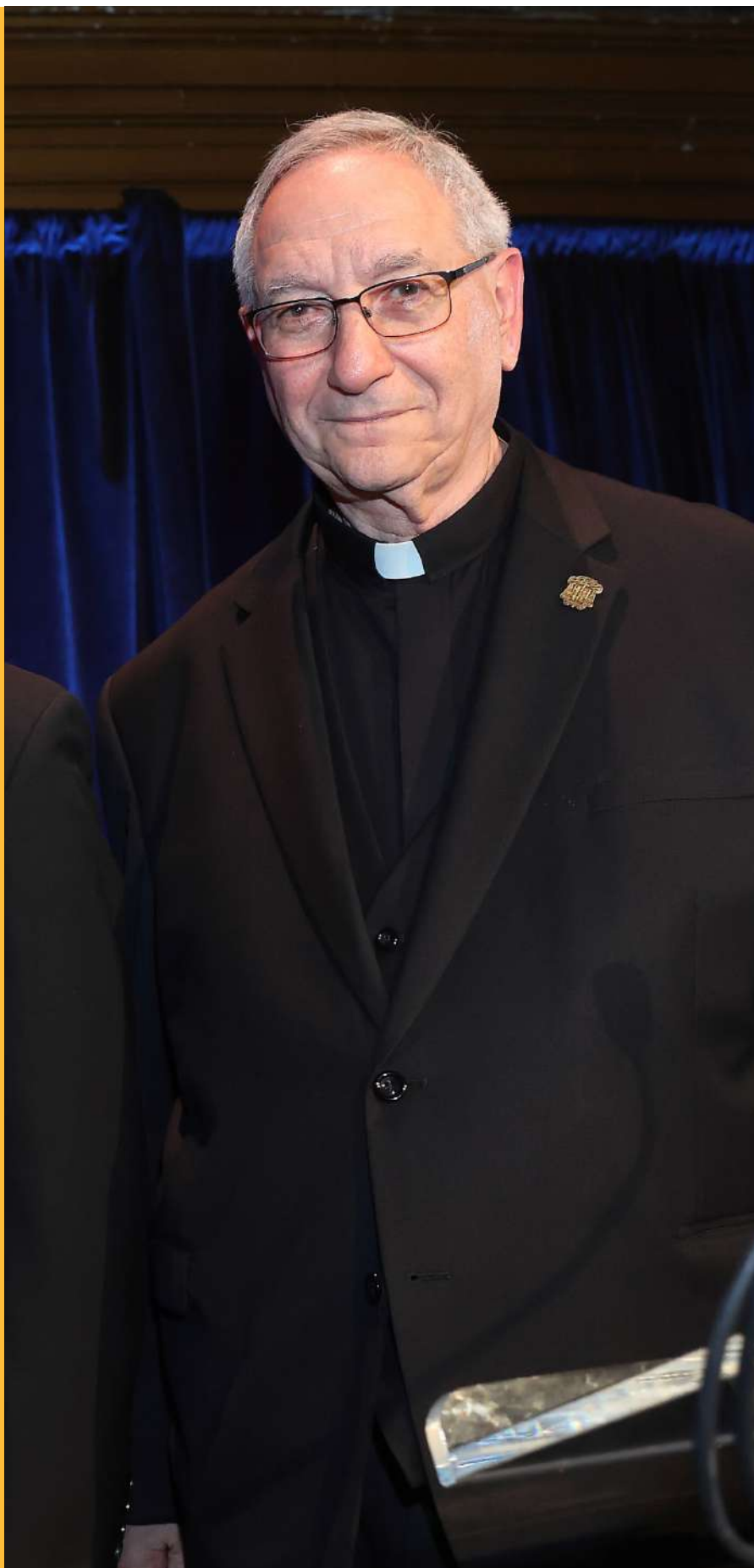
On behalf of everyone at Catholic Charities Brooklyn and Queens, I extend my deepest gratitude for your continued support.

Wishing you a Christmas filled with the love of the Holy Family and a New Year blessed with God's grace and peace.

Sincerely,



Reverend Monsignor Alfred LoPinto  
President and CEO  
Catholic Charities Brooklyn and Queens





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For over 124 years, Catholic Charities Brooklyn and Queens has been providing quality social services to the neighborhoods of Brooklyn and Queens and currently offers 160-plus programs and services for children, youth, adults, older adults, and those struggling with mental illness. Since 1975, Catholic Charities Progress of Peoples Development Corporation, the affordable housing developer of Catholic Charities Brooklyn and Queens, has been transforming vacant land and buildings into affordable housing units and transforming the lives of individuals and families. We've completed more than 4,567 units with supportive services for seniors, families, veterans and the formerly homeless. Since the pandemic began, Catholic Charities Brooklyn and Queens has provided much-needed food packages and services at 60 Catholic Charities parish-based food pantries and has distributed over \$15 million in food.

CARITAS NOW Magazine will bring you quarterly insight into the programs and services offered by Catholic Charities Brooklyn and Queens.

For more information, or to be removed from our list, contact:

CARITAS NOW MAGAZINE: 191 Joralemon Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201

CARITASNOW@ccbq.org or 718-722-6202





# Nourishing Hope:

## CATHOLIC CHARITIES BROOKLYN AND QUEENS TACKLING HUNGER IN NYC



*Catholic Charities Brooklyn and Queens Community Outreach staff provide families in need with access to nourishing food pantry items, and social services provided by the agency at Food Pop-Ups*

**A hidden crisis lies in the heart of the bustling city that never sleeps: food insecurity. This issue became even more dire for residents of Brooklyn and Queens when the influx of asylum seekers from the Texas border added to the demand for food. Catholic Charities Brooklyn and Queens has been at the forefront of this challenge, offering help and hope to those in need.**

A beacon of hope for many individuals and families grappling with food insecurity, Catholic Charities Brooklyn and Queens has significantly ramped up its efforts

to combat hunger and provide essential services to those in need, providing more than \$15 million in meals to thousands of families, children, the homebound elderly, and older adults living in our affordable housing residences for the last three years.

Food insecurity - the lack of consistent access to enough food for an active, healthy life, is pervasive in many communities. In Brooklyn and Queens, two of the most populated boroughs in New York City, the problem is particularly acute. Since the start of the pandemic in 2020, the demand for food assistance at our parish-based food pantries has increased by 306%, with one pantry experiencing a 1,233% increase. Families, individuals, and seniors living alone and isolated grappled with the harsh realities of food insecurity, and the situation has become even more dire when the SNAP

Emergency Allotment benefits were eliminated under federal law earlier this year.

Amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, Catholic Charities saw lines of people needing food, sometimes reaching around the block. With support from generous donors and foundations, the agency responded quickly to this urgency. The agency increased the number to 60 pantries, allowing us to reach more individuals and families ensuring that fewer people go to bed hungry. In addition to the food pantries, Catholic Charities sponsors pop-up food distribution and nutrition events. These health and wellness events are offered in neighborhoods without a local food pantry to support families looking for more food resources, including fresh fruits and produce. More than 10,000 people attended these events, which feature free food, medical and dental screenings,

vaccines, and a wealth of information from Catholic Charities programs and local community service agencies. In 2023 alone, the agency sponsored 29 of these events, including two dedicated to asylum seekers.

## Feeding the Hungry – From Children to Older Adults

For older adults, we provided more than 300,000 culturally preferred breakfasts and hot lunches this year to 10,317 seniors through our Older Adult Centers. Various menu choices are offered, and a city nutritionist approves all to ensure healthy nutrition.

Catholic Charities also provides home-delivered meals to over 12,000 seniors who cannot leave home. This service is crucial during weather emergencies and rain and snowstorms, ensuring that the community's most vulnerable members can access nutritious meals. Last year, our home-delivered meals program delivered more than 520,000 meals to homebound seniors who receive one hot meal and one cold pack each day, and meals include cultural choices such as Kosher and Halal.

From age 60 to 104, our older adults attend our 19 Older Adult Centers for companionship and a warm meal. Ann T, a 104-year young member of the Catholic Charities Howard Beach Older Adult Center who resides at our Peter Striano Senior Residence, located in the same facility, continues to be an active and integral member of our community for over 25 years and counting!

*104-year-old Ann enjoys sitting down to share a hearty and nutritious meal with friends. It gives her an opportunity to be a part of a warm atmosphere that honors her spirit, embraces her impressive longevity and respects her contributions to the community.*



104-year-young Ann

A regular at our center's communal meals, Ann often takes her friends down memory lane, reminiscing about her youthful adventures, while offering pockets of wisdom to staff and volunteers that she's gained over decades. Despite the challenges she's overcome over the years and those that come with such an advanced age, Ann enjoys sitting down to share a hearty and nutritious meal with friends. It gives her an opportunity to be a part of a warm atmosphere that honors her spirit, embraces her impressive longevity and respects her contributions to the community.

Children in our Early Childhood Centers and Family Child Care Programs are provided with healthy lunches and snacks, with 1,785 children provided 465,000 meals last year alone.

For low-income women, infants, and children up to age 5, Catholic Charities offers its Women, Infant, Children (WIC) Program to assist those who are at risk by providing nutrition and breastfeeding support, education, and access to healthy foods. Our WIC programs in Woodside and Jamaica had a very successful year with over 5,506 moms, children, and infants enrolled, and a new agency sponsored WIC program is opening soon in East New York, Brooklyn. The WIC Program is also experiencing an increase in clients from such countries as Venezuela, Colombia, Nicaragua, Honduras, Haiti, Mexico, Guatemala, Ecuador, and the Dominican Republic.

The asylum seekers arriving from the southern border face the harsh realities of food insecurity. Catholic Charities displayed an unwavering commitment to aiding migrants from Texas with a compassionate and comprehensive response. Currently, Catholic Charities provides food pantry items and soup kitchen style meals at five designated assistance centers located at parishes throughout Brooklyn and Queens. (Read more about how we assist migrants on page #8 of this issue).

For those in need, Catholic Charities' efforts to combat food insecurity extend beyond just providing meals. The organization also offers a range of supportive services designed to address the root causes of food insecurity. These include financial literacy programs, job training, and assistance with benefits enrollment. By addressing these underlying issues, Catholic Charities is helping individuals and families achieve long-term food security.

Catholic Charities has been pivotal in addressing food insecurity over the past three years. The organization has provided much-needed relief to those in need through its food pantries, home-delivered meals, and supportive services. It has made significant strides towards achieving its mission of building a just and compassionate society. As the fight against food insecurity continues, the work of Catholic Charities remains more critical than ever. ■



# Harvesting Gratitude:

## Annual Thanksgiving Turkey Giveaway Feeds 3000 Families



Volunteers prepare bags with turkeys and fixings at Holy Innocents RC Church in Brooklyn, during a turkey distribution organized by Catholic Charities Brooklyn and Queens on Tuesday, November 14, 2023.

**Thanksgiving is a time for gratitude, reflection, and togetherness. It's a day when families and communities come together to celebrate the blessings of the past year and share a meal that represents the warmth of their love and unity. However, not everyone has the means to put a Thanksgiving feast on the table, and that's where Catholic Charities Brooklyn and Queens comes in to ensure that no one is left without the joy of a Thanksgiving turkey.**

This year, more than 3,000 families were provided with a harvest of blessings when Catholic Charities distributed holiday meals comprised of a Thanksgiving turkey (or chicken). Thanks to the St. Vincent de

Paul Fund, Catholic Charities was able to provide our neighbors with 1,000 \$50 food vouchers to purchase all the trimmings. Catholic Charities Brooklyn and Queens President and CEO, Monsignor Alfred LoPinto, joined Catholic Charities for the distribution, leading those in attendance in prayer and focusing on the importance of serving one another.

Catholic Charities served the families during three turkey distributions held at Our Lady of Sorrows Roman Catholic Church in Corona, Holy Innocents Church in Brooklyn and Our Lady of the Cenacle in Richmond Hill.

### Volunteers: The Heart and Soul of the Operation

The success of this annual turkey distribution wouldn't be possible without the dedication of countless volunteers. Community members, vendors, staff, and individuals come together to sort, package, and distribute the turkeys and other Thanksgiving fixings.

Al and Maria Catanese generously donated 700 turkeys again this year, continuing an eight-year tradition in honor of their parents, while Univision Nueva York Contigo donated 450 turkeys. Other donors include the NYC District Council of Carpenters, who donated 200 turkeys; EJ Electric Installation Company, who donated 300 turkeys; the Steamfitters Union, who donated 200 turkeys; and ACE Endico, who donated 100. In addition, CareMAX, Aetna Medicare Solutions, and Greystone generously donated money or volunteered at the event. Their commitment and willingness to serve are a testament to the power of community and the spirit of Thanksgiving.

The impact of Catholic Charities Brooklyn and Queens' turkey distribution goes beyond the food itself. It provides a sense of dignity, hope and belonging to those who might otherwise go without. For many recipients, the gift of a Thanksgiving turkey is more than just a meal; it's a reminder that they are cared for and remembered during the holiday season. ■



# Volunteers: The Heart and Soul

When compassion meets action, miracles happen. We are grateful to our extraordinary corporate and private volunteers for making this year's turkey distribution event a huge success. Pictured below are volunteers from Our Lady of Sorrows RC Church, Univision Nueva York Contigo, and the Steamfitters.



*Alphonse Catanese and Msgr. Alfred LoPinto distribute turkeys at Holy Innocents RC Church on Tuesday, November 14, 2023.*

## ***Alphonse and Maria Catanese Feed Thousands for 8 Years***

On Thanksgiving Day, many people struggle to provide their families with a festive meal. However, thanks to Alphonse and Maria Catanese, hundreds of low-income families in Brooklyn and Queens were able to enjoy a traditional turkey dinner again this year.

As the President of Almar Realty Solutions, Mr. Catanese has been fortunate in life. Following in the footsteps of his parents, Alphonse and his wife Maria chose to give back to their community in a special way. Since 2016, he and his wife Maria have donated more than 700 turkeys each year in partnership with Catholic Charities. The Catanese Family oversee the distribution in both Brooklyn and Queens, and personally hand out turkeys to the less fortunate in memory of their parents.

"It's important to help someone else and make someone feel special on a day that's very important," Mr. Catanese said. "The people really appreciate the turkey and genuinely need it. You know that bird is going to be on someone's table and is going to make the holiday even more special." ■





## Volunteers Always Needed!

**Catholic Charities' remarkable work would not be possible without volunteers' dedication and donors' generosity.** Countless individuals have selflessly offered their time to sort, pack, and distribute food to those in need. Meanwhile, donors have provided the financial resources to procure and maintain food supplies.

For 26-year-old Ruben Hernandez, volunteering at the Ocean Bay Community Services food pantry has been life-changing. In October 2022, Ruben heard that his local food pantry was looking for a helping hand.

Hoping to be of service and connect with his community, Ruben began volunteering.

"Volunteering at the food pantry brought me many happy and fulfilling moments," says Ruben. "I learned something new every day and made great friends along the way. I am grateful to have connected with such amazing individuals." Today, Ruben works full-time as a case manager at the Catholic Charities Homebase, where he can help many more in need.

**If you would like to volunteer at Catholic Charities, call 718-722-6113 or visit us online at [www.ccbq.org/volunteer](http://www.ccbq.org/volunteer).**



## Compassiona

**In our diverse communities, Catholic Charities remains committed to compassion, empathy and social responsibility for those seeking refuge in the United States. Since July 2022, Catholic Charities has served approximately 10,000 asylum seekers—and provided 33,200 service units.**

For migrants and asylum seekers who often arrive with little more than hope for a better future, Catholic Charities welcomes and offers vital support to our new neighbors, nourishing bodies and spirits through the essential food services they need.

For many new arrivals, navigating a new country and culture can be daunting. They face numerous challenges, including finding housing, employment, transportation, accessing social and legal services, and raising children while experiencing language and cultural barriers and even prejudices. Catholic Charities recognizes their efforts and struggles and operates a wide range of services to support those who arrive in search of safety and opportunity.

As one of the leading social service





# Emergency Aid and Food Assistance for Migrants

providers at the New York City Asylum Seeker Resource Navigation Center, Catholic Charities Brooklyn and Queens has intimately engaged with the City to provide the services asylum seekers need upon arrival.

Catholic Charities offers a Food Pantry Network for those needing food, with sites strategically located throughout both boroughs. These pantries serve as accessible distribution points for individuals and families recently arriving in this country. The influx of migrants arriving in New York City has increased the demand threefold.

***"Our emergency food services feed the hungry and nourish the spirit of hope and community."***

Since last year, parishes in the Diocese of Brooklyn, particularly those close to city shelters where asylees are placed, have begun partnering with Catholic Charities to collectively provide nourishing options to our new community members. With the help of the Office of Mission, Catholic Charities Brooklyn and Queens sponsors outreach services and soup kitchens at St. Michael in Sunset Park, St. Michael-St. Malachy in East New York, St. Gabriel in Cypress Hills, Our Lady of Sorrows in Corona, Presentation of

the Blessed Virgin Mary, and St. Pius V RC Church in Jamaica. The agency also distributes emergency food bags from our headquarters in Downtown Brooklyn and opened a resource center at the Bishop Nicholas DiMarzio Residence following a consumer choice model that gives asylees the option to choose the foods they want.

The parishes with soup kitchens have varying hours of operation and are run by parish staff and volunteers who offer their time to welcome the asylee community. At St. Pius V, asylum seekers help parish volunteers prepare hot meals for other new arrivals to thank the community for offering them a warm and compassionate welcome when they needed it most. In all, approximately 1,650 asylum seekers are served hot meals every week.

Feeding migrants and the asylee community is not only about providing food; it's also about building a sense of community and belonging. It's about advocating for our sisters and brothers during their time of need. Catholic Charities Brooklyn and Queens' dedicated volunteers and staff work tirelessly to engage with those we serve. Our programs and affiliates offer asylees limited financial assistance, emergency food and food pantry access, hot meals, clothing, diapers, MetroCards, English as a Second Language classes,

access to Women Infant Children (WIC) nutrition programs, NYC ID referrals, MetroPlusHealth insurance and workforce development resources such as the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and homecare training. Through our parish partnerships, we have also facilitated OSHA training, clothing drives, and baby showers for new and expectant parents.

The mission of Catholic Charities Brooklyn and Queens extends beyond the services we provide. Our advocacy work is crucial in raising awareness about the challenges migrants and asylum seekers face and garnering support for initiatives promoting their well-being.

"Our emergency food services feed the hungry and nourish the spirit of hope and community, says Msgr. Alfred LoPinto, President & CEO. "In a world where asylum seekers often find themselves in challenging circumstances, Catholic Charities Brooklyn and Queens provides hope for those on a journey to opportunity and security."

Through our service to those most in need, we can welcome newcomers with dignity, respect, and compassion. Our commitment is to respond to the human needs of the most vulnerable members of our diverse society while valuing who they are in our shared humanity. ■



# Fun-Filled Feast:

## Catholic Charities Serves Up Thanksgiving Joy and Year-Round Community Support

**Catholic Charities Ocean Bay Community Services recently hosted its 5th Annual Thanksgiving Celebration for Ocean Bay Apartments tenants, exemplifying a commitment to year-round community support offered by Catholic Charities Brooklyn and Queens. Funded by the Ocean Bay RAD grant, the event, organized in collaboration with the Child Center of New York, Ocean Bay CDC, Wavecrest Management, and the Ocean Bay Tenants Association, brought joy to tenants with a festive feast serving 250 clients.**

The celebration featured a luncheon for 120 attendees at noon and a delightful dinner for another 130 tenants at 6 pm. Prizes added to the festive atmosphere, including practical items like toasters, blenders, electric grills, soaps, teas, and mugs from HomeGoods.

Basset Caterers curated a culinary experience with a diverse menu, leaving nothing to be desired. The spread included oven-baked turkey, glazed ham, roasted potatoes, mixed vegetables, baked ziti, Spanish rice, fried fish, BBQ ribs, Mac 'n Cheese, candied yams, salad, an assortment of bread, and a tempting variety of cakes, pies, and cookies—a feast for both the stomach and soul.

Over 200 to-go containers ensured the festive spirit extended beyond the event, allowing attendees to savor the offerings

at their own pace. The atmosphere of gratitude, community, and shared joy created lasting memories.

Catholic Charities Ocean Bay Community Services is vital in providing social services and support to Ocean Bay Apartments' tenants. The program's commitment, extending beyond festivities, includes year-round initiatives such as an in-program food pantry, group for seniors, and facilitating access to career services and summer youth employment opportunities, emphasizing that kindness and compassion can make a difference.

The 5th Annual Thanksgiving Celebration at Ocean Bay was more than a meal—it was a testament to community and the spirit of giving. As Catholic Charities continues supporting Ocean Bay residents, events like these underscore how kindness—and a meal—can make a difference in lives. ■





## *Catholic Charities Program Enables Residents Living With HIV To Cook and Eat Nourishing Meals*

In the heart of Williamsburg, Brooklyn, exists a haven of compassion known as Casa Betsaida Residence. Operated by Catholic Charities Brooklyn and Queens, the residence provides supportive housing and case management for people living with HIV/AIDS who have a history of homelessness and/or substance abuse. Many of the residents are undocumented immigrants, one of the most vulnerable populations in New York City.

Within the walls of Casa Betsaida, residents receive counseling, substance use disorder treatment, legal services and health care. And because many of the residents are ineligible for critical government benefits due to their immigration status, Catholic Charities focuses on providing them with food and nutrition. The program is a lifeline for clients to help them become more food secure, manage their chronic health conditions and prevent other debilitating health conditions from developing.

"For those living with HIV/AIDS, maintaining the quality of their health can be problematic considering their chronic illness," says Martin Sussman, Vice President for Residential & Housing Services. "Their healthcare is even more compromised by the lack of access to healthy food options and adequate medical care. These residents are also susceptible to developing other chronic medical conditions that are diet-related like diabetes, obesity, and hypertension."

Prior to 2021, residents at Casa Betsaida lived at the residence and had to cook and feed themselves. As individuals living with HIV/AIDS, maintaining a healthy eating style and immune system is essential to maintain a healthy weight and absorb HIV medicines. Therefore, a healthy diet helps strengthen the immune system and keeps people with HIV healthy. Hiring cooks to make healthy meals is even more important in communities like this. To help aid this, we incorporated a program where clients at Casa Betsaida can receive at least two healthy meals a day. Thanks to the Mother Cabrini Health Foundation (MCHF), we fully stocked our kitchen with healthy foods and hired kitchen staff to prepare meals to help address food security for these clients. The program cooks nutritious meals, such as baked chicken, baked fish including salmon, low salt vegetable and chicken soup, pasta salad and garden salad with grilled chicken. Many of the residents at Casa Betsaida really love the baked fish and grilled chicken with brown rice and beans, as well as the various salads that are prepared.

"I love the food here," says a female resident of Casa Betsaida. "It is like eating at home. Everything is fresh and clean." Residents also get a respite from isolation through group cooking and nutrition classes where they can socialize and gain support from each other.

The mission of Casa Betsaida and Catholic Charities Brooklyn and Queens is deeply rooted in the principles of compassion and the belief that every human being deserves dignity and respect. Our work with this community provides sustenance, creates a place of belonging and transforms lives in the process. ■



the Spirit Catholic  
Brooklyn and Queens  
Nourished Meals Programs





# Feeding the Spirit:

Catholic Charities Brooklyn and Queens Home Delivered Meals Programs -- a Lifeline for the Homebound Elderly

**Catholic Charities Brooklyn and Queens Home Delivered Meals Programs are a crucial support system for homebound older adults, providing necessary meals, and is a significant source of assistance, especially during the holidays and weather emergencies.**

For older adults confined to their homes due to age, illness, or mobility challenges, the Catholic Charities Home Delivered Meals Program is more than a nutritional service; it connects seniors to the outside world. Many recipients of these meals experience isolation, and the program's dedicated volunteers become not just bearers of food but also companions who brighten their days.

As the holiday season approaches, the program takes on a special significance. For individuals who may not have family nearby or are unable to partake in traditional celebrations, the arrival of a warm, festive meal becomes a source

of joy and a reminder that they are not forgotten. The volunteers, often clad in Santa hats, bring nourishment and the spirit of the season right to the doorstep.

So that the homebound do not go without meals on the holidays, if we cannot deliver meals on Thanksgiving and Christmas, meals are delivered a day before, in increments of three, so that seniors have food for the holiday and days after.

The program's impact is felt even more keenly during weather emergencies. Whether it's a snowstorm, hurricane, or any other natural disaster, the Home Delivered Meals Program ensures that vulnerable individuals receive sustenance when venturing out becomes perilous. This proactive approach to emergency preparedness is a testament to Catholic Charities' commitment to the community's well-being.

At the heart of this program is a network of dedicated volunteers who embody the true spirit of generosity. These individuals go above and beyond, braving the elements and overcoming logistical

challenges to ensure every meal reaches its intended recipient. Their commitment is a shining example of the positive impact that volunteerism can have on a community.

Funded by New York City Aging, the success of the Catholic Charities Brooklyn and Queens Home Delivered Meals Program is also attributed to the collaborative efforts with local businesses, community organizations, and helpful volunteers. Their support enables the program to expand its reach and provide meals to an increasing number of individuals in need.

The Catholic Charities Home Delivered Meals Program stands out as a lifeline for the homebound, offering nourishment for the body and comfort for the soul. As the holiday season approaches and weather emergencies loom, the program's unwavering commitment to service shines brightly, reminding us of the profound impact that compassionate care can have on the lives of those who need it most. ■



# Leave A Legacy of Compassion: Planned Giving with Catholic Charities Brooklyn and Queens

## Building a Lasting Impact Through Thoughtful Generosity

As a leading social service agency that has been serving the communities of Brooklyn and Queens for over 124 years, Catholic Charities Brooklyn and Queens provides various services to individuals and families, including affordable housing, mental health services, early childhood education, family support, and elder care. One of the ways that Catholic Charities Brooklyn and Queens funds these critical services is through unexpected planned gifts--the generous support of friends and strangers throughout the years.

Planned Giving is a way for individuals to make more significant gifts to Catholic Charities Brooklyn and Queens. While some people write a check for their donation, others choose to make a planned gift. This type of gift is usually made from an individual's assets, retirement income, or estate, and it can provide significant tax benefits for the donor.

Several ways exist to make a planned gift to Catholic Charities Brooklyn and Queens. One of the most common ways is through a charitable gift annuity, a bequest in a will or trust. This allows the donor to leave a specific amount or percentage of their estate to Catholic Charities. Another option is to name Catholic Charities as a retirement plan or life insurance policy beneficiary. This can be a tax-efficient way



to make a significant gift, as these assets can be heavily taxed if left to heirs.

Other types of planned gifts include charitable gift annuities and charitable remainder trusts. These options provide the donor with an income stream for life or a set number of years, after which the remaining assets go to Catholic Charities. These gifts can provide significant tax benefits, including an immediate income tax deduction and potential savings on capital gains and estate taxes.

The Planned Giving Program at Catholic Charities is not just about financial benefits for the donor. It's also about making a lasting impact on the communities that Catholic Charities serves. Planned gifts can provide a stable funding source for Catholic Charities's programs and services, ensuring that they can continue to help those in need for years to come.

In addition to providing critical funding, planned gifts also help to strengthen the relationship between Catholic Charities and its donors. When someone makes a planned gift, they are making a long-term commitment to the mission of Catholic Charities. This deepens their connection to the organization and its work, and it can inspire others to make similar commitments.

The Planned Giving Program at Catholic Charities Brooklyn and Queens is a vital part of the organization's efforts to raise funds to sustain its important programs and services. It provides a

way for individuals to make significant gifts that can have a lasting impact on the communities that Catholic Charities serves. Whether through a bequest, a beneficiary designation, or a life income gift, planned giving is a powerful way to support the mission of Catholic Charities.

For more information on Planned Giving at Catholic Charities Brooklyn and Queens, contact Lucy Garrido-Mota at 718-722-6211 or [lucy.gmota@ccbq.org](mailto:lucy.gmota@ccbq.org). ■

## Takeaways

**Enduring Impact:** *Making a planned gift to Catholic Charities Brooklyn and Queens ensures a lasting impact on the community, supporting vital programs and services for years to come.*

**Diverse Giving Options:** *There are various planned giving options, including bequests, charitable gift annuities, and trusts, tailoring your donation to align with your goals and values.*

**Strengthen Your Communities:** *By choosing Catholic Charities Brooklyn and Queens you directly contribute to addressing diverse needs and making a positive difference in the lives of those we serve.*

**Personalized Guidance:** *Receive personalized guidance and support from the agency to navigate the planned giving process seamlessly, ensuring your legacy reflects your commitment to compassion and social responsibility.*





*Photo on this page: (l. to r.) Reverend Monsignor Alfred P. LoPinto, President and Chief Executive Officer, Catholic Charities Brooklyn and Queens and Affiliated Agencies; Jesus Linares, President, BRS Business Relocation Services; William R. Guarinello, Former President and Chief Executive Officer, HeartShare Human Services of New York; Most Reverend Robert J. Brennan, Bishop of Brooklyn; Mary Whelan, Facilities Manager, Catholic Charities Brooklyn and Queens; John Rafferty, Chief Executive Officer, Watch Guard 24/7 LLC; Joseph J. Lynch, Partner, Nixon Peabody, LLP and Very Reverend Patrick J. Keating, Esq., Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Catholic Charities Brooklyn and Queens and Affiliated Agencies during the 2023 Bishop's Humanitarian Award Dinner held at Cipriani Wall Street on Thursday, September 28, 2023.*

*Photos on page 15: Cheers to making a difference! These snapshots capture the joy and generosity that filled our fundraising gala.*

## ***Bishop's Humanitarian Award Dinner Raises \$1.6 Million***

Nearly \$1.6 million was raised in September at the 2023 Bishop's Humanitarian Award Dinner at Cipriani Wall Street, with all proceeds benefiting the more than 160 programs and services of Catholic Charities Brooklyn and Queens.

At the event, Catholic Charities presented John Rafferty, Watch Guard 24/7 LLC, Joseph J. Lynch, Nixon Peabody, and Jesus Linares, BRS Business Relocation Service, with the 2023 Bishop's Humanitarian Award. William R. Guarinello, HeartShare Human Services of New York, was honored with the 2023 Bishop Joseph M. Sullivan Service Award, and Mary Whelan of Catholic Charities was given the 2023 Ubi Caritas Award. Joe Piscopo, comedian, actor, musician, writer and talk show host, served as the Master of Ceremonies and entertainment for the evening.

The Bishop's Humanitarian Award Dinner was co-chaired by the Most Reverend Robert J. Brennan, Bishop of Brooklyn. "The support that was raised at the Humanitarian Award Dinner will ensure that Catholic Charities continues to serve the community on a daily basis," said Bishop Brennan. "In a world of uncertainty, our neighbors know that they can turn to us for the help they so desperately need."

Reverend Monsignor Alfred P. LoPinto, Chief Executive Officer, highlighted the significance of donor support to the work of Catholic Charities Brooklyn and Queens. "Your support is so vital in enabling Catholic Charities to provide our neighbors with the helping hand they need to get back on their feet again."

Catholic Charities also presented the John J. Farrell Award to staff members Yvette Cora, Oliver Donalson, Deborah King, James Norcott, Isaura Pimentel, and Maria Pinard who have reached 30 years of service at the agency. ■



***Bishop's Humanitarian Award Dinner Highlights:***







**CATHOLIC CHARITIES**  
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# *Save the Date!*

- **Saturday, April 13, 2024: The Coat of Arms Club.** Location, TBD
- **Thursday, June 20, 2024: The Bishop Joseph M. Sullivan Memorial Golf Classic:** North Hills Country Club
- **Thursday, September 26, 2024: Bishop's Humanitarian Award Dinner:** Cipriani Wall Street, NYC.

For details on all events visit [www.ccbq.org](http://www.ccbq.org) or contact the Office of Development and Communications at 718-722-6202 or [ccbq.events@ccbq.org](mailto:ccbq.events@ccbq.org)



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