

# CARITAS NOW

CATHOLIC CHARITIES BROOKLYN AND QUEENS MAGAZINE | THE SPIRIT OF GIVING



125+  
YEARS OF CHANGING LIVES



## Hearts & Hands

WAYS THE SPIRIT OF GIVING TRANSFORMS THE LIVES OF THOSE WE SERVE IN BROOKLYN AND QUEENS

K-Four Construction volunteers at our annual end-of-summer Kid's Fun Day school supply event, made possible by support from Mother Cabrini Health Foundation.



# LETTER FROM THE CEO

Dear Friends,

As we welcome the Fall 2025 issue of “**Caritas Now**”, I am filled with gratitude for the extraordinary generosity and compassion that define our Catholic Charities Brooklyn and Queens family. This Fall issue is dedicated to the power of Giving—a principle that is at the heart of everything we do.

Because of you—donors, volunteers, partners, foundations and community members—Catholic Charities Brooklyn and Queens is able to operate over 160 programs that meet the diverse needs of our neighbors every day. Your support has enabled us to provide affordable housing, food security, childcare, education, counseling, and compassionate care for older adults and families in need throughout Brooklyn and Queens.

This year, we witnessed your commitment in action at our annual Bishop’s Humanitarian Dinner, where over 1,000 supporters helped us raise \$2.3 million for our programs. We celebrated remarkable individuals and organizations whose dedication to service and community uplift inspires us all. Your gifts—large and small, planned and immediate—are the foundation that allows us to respond to urgent needs and invest in long-term solutions.

In these pages, you’ll find practical ways to give, from holiday donations and stock gifts to legacy giving and planned gifts that ensure our mission endures for generations to come. The stories from donors and advice from legal experts are a testament to the impact of your partnership.

I invite you to consider the many ways you can make a difference this season and beyond. Every act of giving—whether a financial contribution, a gift of time, or a legacy remembered—helps us build communities of hope, dignity, and opportunity.

Thank you for your steadfast faith in our mission and for helping us serve those who need us most. Together, we are not just changing lives—we are creating a legacy of compassion, justice, and hope for Brooklyn and Queens.

With sincere appreciation,

  
Monsignor Alfred LoPinto  
President and CEO





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For over 125 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 2020, 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





# ***Building Stronger Communities Together***

## **HOW PHILANTHROPIC GIVING POWERS CATHOLIC CHARITIES BROOKLYN AND QUEENS**

**P**hilanthropic donations are at the heart of Catholic Charities Brooklyn and Queens. These gifts—from individuals, families, foundations, and corporations—allow us to provide critical services to our neighbors in need, respond quickly during crises, and reach thousands of vulnerable families and individuals throughout New York City.

Philanthropic support comes in many forms. Individual gifts

enable us to launch or expand new programs. Foundation grants from organizations like the Mother Cabrini Health Foundation, which provides over \$5 million annually, fund essential services and program enhancements. Businesses contribute through sponsorships and in-kind donations. Major gifts enable lasting improvements and expanded opportunities.

While community fundraising and government grants remain crucially important, they often cannot meet the ever-growing needs of our neighbors. Philanthropic support enables us to

expand our reach, pilot innovative programs, and respond swiftly to emergencies.

### **Aiding Our Impact in the Community**

Thanks to the support of the Mother Cabrini Health Foundation (MCHF), we have been able to grow and enhance vital programs since 2019, positively impacting the lives of hundreds of thousands across Brooklyn and Queens.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the MCHF allowed us to deeply expand to our current network of 60 parish-based and affiliate





residents, offering care to individuals—many of whom are elderly or formerly homeless—helping them stay healthy and independent. We offer programs for expectant mothers and help newcomers navigate immigration, always believing everyone deserves kindness and a chance for a brighter future. All of this is only possible through philanthropic support.

### Breaking Language Barriers

Our ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) program offers free classes for adults seeking to enhance their English skills for daily life, work, and community engagement. Thousands have gained confidence and practical skills, from navigating public transit to engaging in daily conversations. Beyond English lessons, participants have access to social services, immigration assistance, and wellness workshops.

A recent \$40,000 donation—inspired by a family who benefited from ESOL and wanted others to have the same opportunity—helped us upgrade technology and expand the program's reach.

### A Shared Mission of Hope

Every gift creates ripples of change that extend far beyond a single moment. Your support fills critical gaps, enables us to innovate, and provides vulnerable neighbors with the resources they need to thrive. Sometimes support comes in unexpected ways—like when First Fruit Farm, through a connection with Catholic Charities USA, provided over 21,000 pounds of fresh produce to our food pantries and soup kitchens, ensuring more New Yorkers have access to healthy food. Together, we are building a stronger, more caring Brooklyn and Queens—one act of kindness at a time. Thank you for standing with us in this mission. ■

food pantries, providing meals, dignity, and hope to hundreds of thousands of families facing food insecurity throughout Brooklyn and Queens. We also host monthly health and wellness fairs, bringing screenings and resources directly into neighborhoods. Our mobile outreach team delivers emergency help—even in winter storms. Benefit coordinators at our clinics guide families through social services, ensuring that language or financial barriers never stand in the way of getting help.

Our in-program nurses visit supportive and senior housing





*Ed McDermott and Nancy Stein at the Charles F. Murphy Early Childhood Development Center Ribbon Cutting; Nancy curated the artwork for the children and families in the community to enjoy.*

# *Art that Heals*

## *Donations that Bring Beauty to Our Community*

**Ed McDermott and Nancy Stein, long-time supporters of Catholic Charities Brooklyn and Queens, made an in-kind donation of more than 70 pieces of art to the Catholic Charities facilities.**

Ed and Nancy's relationship with Catholic Charities began in the early 1990s, when Catholic Charities started using Ed's company, West Side Graphics, for printing solutions to produce agency materials, including brochures, newsletters, and invitations.

Being raised in a Catholic school around nuns, Ed has a strong connection to the church.

Married for over 30 years, Ed and Nancy's faith in the Catholic Charities mission to help the most vulnerable in our community led them to begin supporting Catholic Charities financially in 2008. They donated to many of our agency's donation appeals and then became members of the Bishop's Coat of Arms Club in 2016.

Over the years, Ed and Nancy have made donations through campaigns and appeals, and in 2017, they made an in-kind donation via an art collection.

Ed and Nancy's first donation of artwork was in 2017, when select pieces were donated to the Charles F. Murphy Early Childhood Development Center. Then, in 2019, approximately 60 pieces were donated to the Bishop Boardman Apartments and distributed across Catholic Charities' catalogue of schools and older adult centers, brightening and enriching the common

areas.

Nancy handpicked the donated artwork from her mother, Lily Magazine's personal collection. Being raised in a family that had always worked with art and appreciated art, Nancy was inspired to do the same throughout her life.

"My father had a company that made decoupage lamps; some of his lamps were even in the White House around 1948. And my mother had an art business in Nyack, New York," Nancy said. "So, I grew up around that art and appreciating all art forms."

Nancy herself went into the conservation framing business and worked with museums such as the Metropolitan Museum of Art and Asia House. Nancy represented artists and ran the Nancy Stein Gallery for about 40 years. She also helped curate artwork for display in the offices of



major companies.

When Nancy's mother passed away, she inherited her art collection, which she had acquired over the years through collecting and her art business in Nyack. When Nancy and Ed were unable to keep the entire collection, they decided to find new places for the artwork where it could be better displayed and appreciated.

"Catholic Charities was a good place for the art," Nancy said. "The art went to the schools and older adult centers. It's a beautiful thing to think that older adults will be living with the art and that children will grow up with the art around them. In the most formative years, exposing children to art and allowing them to live with art is invaluable."

The artwork donated is appraised at more than \$35,000, with artwork spanning from the 1830s to the 1980s. The beautiful artwork varies from oil and watercolor paintings, decoupage and paper creations, and photography.

While Nancy's vision has deteriorated over the years, she lives with the memories of art and continues to appreciate it in all its forms.

"Art is alive all the time. Whether it's setting the table, putting out a tablecloth, placing the silverware, putting the glass where it belongs, it's all art," Nancy said. "Everything you do can be art, even the clothes you wear."

Through their thoughtful and generous donations, Ed and Nancy have not only preserved a family legacy but also created lasting beauty and inspiration within Catholic Charities Brooklyn and Queens.

Their art now lives on in spaces that bring comfort, curiosity, and joy. By sharing pieces from their collection, Ed and Nancy have done more than decorate walls; they've helped build environments where art becomes an integral part of everyday life, quietly nurturing imagination, memory, and community for generations to come. ■



## ***Essential Estate Planning: A Guide from Michael N. Connors, Esq.***

When donating to Catholic Charities Brooklyn and Queens through Planned Giving, it's necessary to understand the basics of estate planning. This article is based on information shared by Michael N. Connors, Esq., an estate attorney and principal at Connors and Sullivan Attorneys at Law PLLC, during a webinar for Catholic Charities Brooklyn and Queens donors. Mr. Connors is a board of trustee of Catholic Charities Brooklyn and Queens and regularly offers advice to donors interested in protecting their donations. The following tips and tools were presented to help people make informed decisions when estate planning. "Whether you have modest savings or a multimillion-dollar estate, having the right legal documents and strategies in place ensures that your wishes are honored and that your loved ones are protected," Connors said.

"A will is one of the most fundamental estate planning documents, which directs how your individually owned assets will be distributed after your death. When planning how assets are distributed to loved ones or charities, tax efficiency is a crucial consideration. When gifting appreciated assets, such as stocks that have significantly increased in value, it's advised not to sell them and then donate the proceeds, because you will pay capital gains tax. Instead, gift the appreciated stocks directly to charity." The charity pays no capital gains tax, and you receive a larger charitable deduction, Connors explained.

"If you're dividing your estate between heirs and charities, consider leaving taxable retirement assets, like IRAs or 401(k)s, to the charity because they pay no income tax. Then, leave stocks or real estate to your heirs, who benefit from a step-up in basis, eliminating capital gains on inherited assets." ■



# Your Year-End Giving Guide:

## So Many Ways to Make a Difference



**As 2025 ends, we thank you for your amazing support. Because of you, Catholic Charities Brooklyn and Queens operates over 160 programs that support our communities every day—from food and childcare to services for seniors and families in need. Here are easy ways you can help us now and in the future.**

### Simple Ways to Give This Holiday Season

#### Amazon Wish List Shopping

Shop our Christmas Amazon Wish List to send essential items—such as diapers, baby formula, and warm clothing—directly to the families we serve. Your gifts are delivered directly to our clients at our annual Santa's Gift Shop Toy Drives.

#### Traditional Cash Donations

Cash donations support our mission. Every dollar helps people in Brooklyn and Queens through food, housing, and youth programs.

### Year-End Tax-Smart Giving

#### Stock and Securities Gifts

Giving stocks or securities can save on taxes and avoid capital gains. This is a smart option for year-end giving.

#### Donor-Advised Funds

If you have a donor-advised fund, recommend a gift to Catholic Charities Brooklyn and Queens before December 31. You can also donate stocks or IRA distributions this way.

#### IRA Charitable Distributions

If you're 70½ or older, you can make direct withdrawals from your IRA. This counts toward your required distribution and reduces your taxable income.

#### Legacy Giving: Your Lasting Impact

Planned giving lets you support our mission for years to come. These gifts help your values live on.

### Ways to Create Your Legacy

#### Bequests Through Your Will

Add Catholic Charities Brooklyn and Queens to your will or trust. You can give a set amount or a percentage of your estate with a simple update.

#### Charitable Gift Annuities

Transfer cash or securities to Catholic Charities in exchange for fixed income payments for life. When the annuity term ends, the remaining balance supports our mission – providing you with income now and impact forever.

#### Retirement Plan Beneficiaries

Name Catholic Charities Brooklyn and Queens as a beneficiary of your IRA, 401(k), or other retirement accounts. A portion or all of these funds can support our work while potentially providing significant tax benefits to your heirs.

#### Real Estate Gifts

Donate real estate during your lifetime or after, allowing us to either sell the property or utilize it as a facility for our services. This option can provide substantial tax benefits while supporting our mission.

#### Charitable Trusts

Establish a charitable trust that combines flexible benefits, including generous income, significant tax advantages, and a meaningful gift to Catholic Charities Brooklyn and Queens.

### Important Tax Benefits

As a qualified 501(c)(3) organization, gifts to Catholic Charities Brooklyn





Volunteers from Long Island Board of Realtors at 2024 Christmas Toy Drive

and Queens are tax-deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law. Year-end giving can help reduce your 2025 tax burden while creating positive change in our communities.

#### Key Tax Advantages:

- Income tax deductions for cash gifts up to 60% of adjusted gross income
- Capital gains tax avoidance on appreciated asset gifts
- IRA Qualified Charitable Distributions exclude amounts from taxable income for donors 70 ½ and older
- Donor-advised fund distributions provide an immediate tax deduction when contributed to the fund
- Estate tax benefits through planned giving strategies
- Potential income streams through charitable gift annuities and trusts

#### We're Here to Help

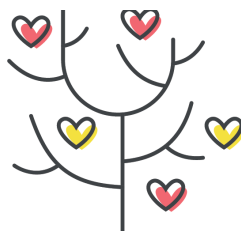
You don't have to navigate these giving options alone. We can help

you access experienced planned giving experts who are ready to work with you to find the giving strategy that best aligns with your financial goals and philanthropic vision. We can also connect you with a financial advisor, attorney, or tax professional to ensure your gift works seamlessly with your overall financial plan.

Whether you're considering a year-end gift or exploring legacy giving options, we're here to answer your questions and provide personalized guidance every step of the way.

#### More Than Money - It's About Hope

When you choose to support Catholic Charities Brooklyn and Queens through any form of giving, you become a lasting partner in our mission. Your gift – whether made today or planned for tomorrow – is more than a financial contribution. It's a powerful statement of faith, compassion, and commitment to building stronger, more hopeful communities.



#### Your generosity enables us to:

- Provide food security through our pantries and meal programs
- Support children and families through early childhood development and educational services
- Care for our older adults with dignity and respect
- Offer pathways to stability for those experiencing homelessness
- Create hope for individuals struggling with mental illnesses

#### Ready to Make Your Year-End Gift or Learn More About Legacy Giving?

Contact our development office at 718-722-6202. We're grateful for your partnership and excited to help you create the impact you envision.

Thank you for your continued faith in our mission and your commitment to serving our neighbors in Brooklyn and Queens. Together, we are building communities of hope. ■





*Pictured from left to right: Very Reverend Patrick J. Keating, Esq., Deacon John Warren, Monsignor John Bracken, Most Reverend Robert J. Brennan, Monsignor Alfred LoPinto, Nick Lembo, Megan and Jeremy Healey.*

**Catholic Charities Brooklyn and Queens raised \$2.3 million at its annual Bishop's Humanitarian Dinner on September 25, 2025, at Cipriani Wall Street. Over 1,000 donors attended to support the organization's 160-plus programs providing affordable housing, older adult centers, food pantries, counseling, and support services for individuals with physical and mental challenges.**

Bishop Robert J. Brennan presented awards assisted by Rev. Msgr. Alfred LoPinto, President and CEO, and Very Reverend Patrick J. Keating, Esq., Deputy CEO.

**Bishop's Humanitarian Award Recipients:** Reverend Monsignor John Bracken has served the Diocese since 1967, including roles at St. Francis de Sales, St. Teresa, and Our Lady Help of Christians. As Episcopal Vicar for Northern Queens and Brooklyn, he oversaw 58 parishes and led a capital campaign raising nearly \$79 million. He aided parishioners during Hurricane Sandy at Blessed Trinity in Breezy Point. Currently, he serves

as Director of Patrimony, helping distribute religious artifacts to churches nationwide and overseas. **Monadnock Construction, founded by Nick Lembo** in 1975, has built over 30,000 apartments and homes throughout New York City. Lembo co-founded The Hudson Companies (1985), launched Capsys Corp. (1995) at the Brooklyn Navy Yard, and established Monadnock Development (2005), which has developed over 11,000 apartments. Today, Monadnock Construction is led by President Greg Bauso with Vice Presidents Alphonse Lembo, Anthony O'Haire, and Aleks Yelizarov. Monadnock Development is guided by President Kirk Goodrich and COO Frank Dubinsky.

**Bishop Joseph M. Sullivan Service Award:** Deacon John Warren, ordained in 2009 and assigned to Our Lady of the Snows, is a Founding Partner of Workforce Housing Group and President of MHR Management, Inc. He served as First Deputy Commissioner at NYC's Department of Housing Preservation and Development for seven years. He chairs Ascendant

Neighborhood Development Corporation and the Urban Homesteading Assistance Board, and holds degrees from the University of Pennsylvania.

**Ubi Caritas Award: The Healy and Hagerty Families**—Thomas J. and Meg Healey, their daughter Megan and son-in-law John Hagerty, their son Jeremy and his wife Megan Healey—have supported Catholic Charities Brooklyn and Queens since 2012. The Healey Family Foundation supports a leadership program through Catholic Charities USA and the University of San Diego, which has trained two local senior staff members.

**John J. Farrell Award recipients for 30 years of service:** Lorna Johnson, Indira Mangroo, and Gaelle Prussien.

Attendees enjoyed an elegant evening that included a gourmet dinner, signature cocktails, and live entertainment by comedian, actor, musician, writer and talk show host Joe Piscopo, who delighted the crowd with a tribute to Frank Sinatra, performing several of the legendary singer's most beloved songs. ■







125+  
YEARS OF CHANGING LIVES



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**Brooklyn and Queens**  
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**CATHOLIC  
CHARITIES**  
Brooklyn &  
Queens

*AN EVENING OF*  
**JAZZ & COCKTAILS**

*AT RUSSO'S ON THE BAY*

ALL FUNDS RAISED BENEFIT CHILDREN & FAMILIES  
IN NEED AT CHRISTMAS

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2025**  
**6 PM - 9 PM**

PREMIUM COCKTAILS \* BUTLER HORS D'OEUVRES  
\* CARVING STATIONS \* 50/50 RAFFLE \* WINE GRAB AND WINE TOSS



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